

Cheque-Presentation Ceremony of 22 September 2005

VC's Speech

Mr. & Mrs. Yasumoto, honoured guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen:

One of my most pleasurable duties as Vice-Chancellor of this University is to receive donations on its behalf. It never fails to make me happy.

Happy because it means our work has again won recognition and appreciation.
Happy because we can be with friends who are generous and supportive.
Happy because we are empowered to achieve more with the support we receive. And, above all, happy because we have the opportunity to say thank you, in person, to our benefactors.

Today is one of the happiest days in my 14 months as Vice-Chancellor, for we are soon to receive a cheque for more than HK\$100 million from a most generous donor, Mr. Alex Yasumoto. With this colossal amount, we shall be able to achieve new heights of excellence in our teaching and research, and expand significantly our programmes for international exchange and collaboration.

On behalf of the Chinese University, let me thank Mr. Yasumoto sincerely for this magnificent gift. We are so excited that you share our aspirations to build a great university with a global outlook. We feel so honoured and privileged that you have chosen us to be your partner in promoting cultural exchange and international cooperation. We are so gratified that you have full confidence in us—in the quality of our academic programmes, and in the potential of our

faculty members and students to achieve excellence. We will not fail your trust.

Mr. Yasumoto: we admire your altruism; we admire your public-spiritedness. Your donation comes as a most pleasant surprise, and at a most opportune time. With it we shall also be eligible for a substantial matching grant from the HKSAR government for the long-term development of the University, and for the benefit of our students and our community. Let me reiterate our grateful thanks for your benevolence. We are also much indebted to you and Mrs. Yasumoto for making the time to come this morning. We hope you will enjoy your visit today, and that it will be the first of many more visits in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I also wish to thank *you* for finding the time to join us and to bear witness to this joyous event, this happy partnership between our University and Mr. Yasumoto. My colleagues and I are confident that the collaboration with Mr. Yasumoto in furthering the cause of higher education and international understanding will last for many many more years to come, and we look forward to continuing to benefit from his advice and support.

Thank you.