

Acceptance Speech – Discovery-enriched Curriculum Team led by Professor Gary FENG

Ladies and gentlemen, City University is greatly honoured to receive the UGC Teaching Award.

My team and I are here today to represent our fellow colleagues who have whole-heartedly embraced the Discovery-enriched Curriculum, and who have played a very important role in its implementation and success. The honour truly belongs to them.

When we prepared for the nomination of the Award, our team reviewed the countless documents we kept over the years. Memories, names, and images of many colleagues flashed through our minds. We recalled the hesitation and struggle we had had during the early stage of strategy formulation when many people believed that undergraduate students are too young to undertake their own discoveries. We would never forget the long and challenging DEC journey the CityU community has walked through. Thanks to our colleagues for making the Discovery-enriched Curriculum happen.

Many CityU faculty members, including myself, wish we had had different learning experience when we were young. We had our own aspiration to discover, to innovate and to create. However, resources and opportunities came only after we finished our undergraduate studies. With the transition to a four-year undergraduate curriculum, we found the perfect opportunity to reinvent the undergraduate experience at CityU so that students can be nurtured and supported to start their discoveries early in their undergraduate studies. The Discovery-enriched Curriculum helps develop a strong culture of discovery and innovation across the campus, fill the gap in traditional teaching and learning models, embrace globalisation and technology, and equip students with the skills required for success in the 21st century workplace.

With all the efforts we have put in, we are happy to see the enormous achievements made by our students – the discoveries in every discipline, the artefacts, the patents, the competition awards – *and most importantly*, our students are now instilled with the confidence to discover and innovate. Moreover, they are empowered to care more for others and the environment, and to discover for their own intellectual fulfilment as well as for the well-being of society.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our heroes – all our CityU students. As an old Chinese saying goes, teaching benefits both teachers and students: “*教學相長*”. During the implementation journey of the Discovery-enriched Curriculum, we witnessed the transformation of not only our students, but also ourselves – our colleagues all around the campus. The works of our students have indeed inspired us to further discoveries.

Believing that the journey for discovery will never end, we will use the award grant to refine our practices and promote discovery-enriched education within and beyond CityU. We look forward to the fruitful exchanges with colleagues of our fellow institutions.

Last but not least, on behalf of the CityU team, I would like to thank the UGC and the Teaching Award Selection Panel for this heartening recognition. As we all know, curriculum change at institutional level is a very challenging task. The fact is, CityU DID it to benefit all our students.

Thank you.