

Outstanding Academic Papers by Students (OAPS)

The 9th Certificate Awarding Ceremony

6:00 – 7:30 p.m., 16 April 2014

Congratulatory Remarks by Professor Arthur Ellis, Provost of City University

Professor Bacon-Shone, Professor Uchida, Professor Ching, Colleagues, Students,

It's my pleasure to welcome all of you to this certificate presentation, and as Anna just showed us in a PowerPoint slides, OAPS is really a very important element of what we are trying to accomplish with what we call the Discovery-enriched Curriculum here at CityU. And just some background for those of you who might be less familiar with Discovery-enriched Curriculum were DEC. We launched this a couple of years ago, when CityU, along with other publicly-funded Hong Kong universities, transition from a three-year to a four-year curriculum. What we said at that time was, if we want to think about what does the 21st curriculum look like, it's not just about mastering existing knowledge, it's also giving students an understanding of what it takes to create new knowledge in their discipline by making them partners in that process. So, the simple goal of the DEC as we described it, is we want every student who comes to CityU to have the chance to make an original discovery in their field, so they understand what it takes to create new knowledge.

Moreover, once they've done that, we'd like to give them a chance to communicate that knowledge to various audiences, to understand what is involved in curating an knowledge so it can be shared and archived, used by others. And finally what's involved in cultivating an knowledge so it can benefit society. And an very important part of all of this, of course, are our staff, our mentors and I am delighted many of them are here with us this evening, because a big part of the Discovery-enriched Curriculum is helping students to explore the unknown, to basically take on subjects that they haven't really studied directly, it's not information you can find on the web, because you're creating new information. And, so this idea of exploring the unknown, of learning what it means to take measure risks is a very important part of it. So, I'd like you to join me in giving thanks to our mentors who are here with us tonight.

I think some of the other themes that you've seen in Anna's presentation, that also a very important part of OAPS and what it's meant, the ideas of globalization, that there are universities around the planet that participate in this now. And the use of technology which means that when our students create something through this programme that it really can be used by others anywhere around the world. And that's the society that we live in, that's the kind of a world that we have. And as you all know, it's extremely dynamic. So, we want our students to feel really very comfortable and very confident when they leave CityU, that they can really work well in that kind of environment. And we were confident that they're going to be able to provide leadership because of the Discovery-enriched Curriculum.

So let me thank all of you for joining us this evening, I know it's going to be a very stimulating event and I want to wish all of you continue to success in your projects. Thank you.