

Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholars Dinner Gathering 24 April 2017 (Monday)

Dr Clement CHEN Cheng-jen, SBS, JP Chairman of VTC

Mr RUDDY (Mr John RUDDY, Trust Protector of the Alistair Harvey Foundation), **distinguished guests, scholars, ladies and gentlemen:**

Good evening. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to the Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholars Dinner Gathering.

Tonight, we are much honoured to have Mr John Ruddy, the Trust Protector of the Alistair Harvey Foundation, with us. I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Ruddy for his kind support to scholars over the years. Mr Ruddy not only travels to Hong Kong every year to conduct the final selection interview with the scholarship candidates, he also visits and provides guidance to our scholars in the UK. We are truly grateful for his loving care and mentorship for our scholars. This year marks the 35th birthday of VTC. Mr Ruddy has bought us new gift by increasing the number of scholarship from 10 to 15 each year. Mr Ruddy, thank you very much.

The Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship was set up in 2004 for IVE Higher Diploma students to further study in the UK, allowing them to unleash their potential and broaden their horizon. Since then, more than 100 IVE students from Applied Science, Engineering and Information Technology disciplines have been benefited from this scholarship. They were well received by some 30 UK universities and have done well both in academic achievement and extracurricular activities. More than half of them even pursued further to master's or doctorate qualifications.

With such precious opportunities, many scholars have developed a successful career in their professional fields, making great contribution to the society after their study. We are glad to have many scholars coming back to VTC this evening. Later on, they will share with you their blossom study and career journey.

At VTC, we put great emphasis on practical knowledge and skills which are the essential building blocks for professional development. As we celebrate the achievements of our students, we must thank our industry partners for their long-standing support over the 35 years, providing our students with ample learning opportunities through industrial attachments, training and more. We are very happy to have some of our close partners joining us tonight, sharing the joy and pride of our students. I appeal to you for your continued support in helping our young people to actualise their fullest potential.

Thank you once again for joining us tonight. I look forward to welcoming you again in our other anniversary celebrations this year. Please enjoy the dinner prepared by our students from Chinese Culinary Institute. Thank you.