

Zixin Ling

Convocation Speech, 2025

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Dual Master's Degree Program for giving me the honor of delivering this graduation speech.

These seventeen months have passed so quickly. As we are sitting in this auditorium, ready to receive our degrees, my mind goes back to the precious and enjoyable experiences that DMDP has given us.

I remember our time in Hong Kong: our first meeting with Professor Li during orientation, our challenging mathematics classes, our league construction in Sai Kung, and our wonderful festive networking dinner.

During our time at Northwestern, we took the boat trip through downtown Chicago, learned from invaluable guest speakers, and cheered together at thrilling basketball games. We explored the history of currency at the Money Museum and shared laughter during program-wide Halloween festivities.

Similarly, at CUHK, we were inspired by sunset views from the University Mall, engaged in lively debates in tutorial rooms, and found camaraderie in the bustling activities.

These shared moments of discovery, both inside and outside the classroom, forged bonds that turned classmates into lifelong friends. These and many more irreplaceable experiences will stay with us forever.

In a world that can often seem complicated and capricious, we have built something special. We are not several isolated groups, but a united family. We have chosen to be inclusive and kind-hearted, setting aside small differences. We have treated each other with genuineness, free from selfishness and harsh criticism. This foundation of mutual respect and shared purpose has empowered us to approach complex challenges with

creativity and resilience, turning potential obstacles into opportunities for collective growth and meaningful contribution.

Of all the lessons we carry forward, the most profound is the philosophy embedded in these experiences. It teaches us that our strength lies not in uniformity, but in our respectful diversity. We must never allow differences to become grounds for discrimination, and we must never be so quick to believe every rumor we hear, fracturing our communities into opposing camps.

Instead, the program has equipped us with a more nuanced compass: the courage to think independently, the grace to listen deeply, and the wisdom to stand united. This is how we will navigate the complexities of our future careers and studies—not with rigidity, but with adaptable skill; not with division, but with collaborative spirit. We will handle future challenges with poise and capability.

This ability to engage with the world thoughtfully and resiliently is the true, priceless wealth of our DMDP journey.

In closing, I extend my sincere thanks to all the faculty and administrative members. My best wishes go to this program, and to all my classmates—I hope we each share in a truly promising future.

Thank you.