

Graduation Ceremony Hong Kong — Congratulations and Introduction of Speaker by Chancellor

Today you leave this place not as students but as professional men and women working towards your goals in your chosen vocation. Some will carry on with further study – deepening understanding in your field and at post-graduate level, so important to this university. Others will want to acquire a particular competence or be more deeply informed, whether in financial accounting, government, law or US Studies – and more broadly across all the sciences and humanities.

At this very time your University is adding to and enriching post-graduate courses that will prepare you for career development and leadership; vitally relevant to our shared Region. Two examples: Geoff Gallop, former Premier of Western Australia and his colleagues in the Graduate School of Government, run superb courses for up and coming government leaders; David Richmond, who brought us the Sydney Olympics, continues to play a significant role. He has organised mentors from both the public and private sector to guide our graduates in their future careers. We are introducing internships next year specially for the Asia-Pacific region. That interaction will enhance the international dimension of our Graduate School of Government.

My second example is Alan Dupont, head of our Hintze Centre for International Security Studies. He is a world authority on the geo-political effects of climate change, a critical issue with water for global survival. Only this week he addressed the North Korean issue in an important speech at the Lowy Institute, our Australian partner in the US Studies Centre we plan to establish. Both Professors Gallop and Dupont collaborate as vital members of Dean Wolnizer's Economics and Business Faculty. Through that Faculty, and its collaborative relationships in Asia, Europe and the United States, each of you have access to our top experts in finance, business strategy and marketing.

Sydney University today, in everything it does, is forging research and teaching collaborations across the globe, none more important than those in Hong Kong and mainland China. That is why we are so pleased to have so many of our Hong Kong partners here today. I shall shortly make special mention of Vice-Chancellor Professor Lawrence Lau of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with whom we have made our most recent collaborative agreement.

Many of you will take on tasks not only in Hong Kong but across the whole Region and beyond. Having studied abroad, you have a tremendous advantage in today's globalised world – as cultural mediators, you are the essential people in making globalisation work.

Some time ago, the Prime Minister spoke of Australia's global engagement. He identified 6 eminent Australians who have been leaders in that process. Let me mention just one, Professor Lord May of Oxford.

He is Sydney University's Distinguished International Fellow – one of two with the other being James Wolfensohn, also a Sydney University graduate and, until his retirement last year, President of the World Bank. His interests and activities continue to span the globe – he, with former President Clinton, is joint venturing the development of alternative fuels.

Lord May was until recently President of the Royal Society, the World's most important scientific body. He always finds time to advise this University, his alma mater, on vital issues; such as how research can be best assessed and funded - so Sydney University can continue to support you and your teachers in advancing the frontiers of knowledge. Remember, at the heart of great teaching is research. I liken that symbiotic connection to your great pianist Lang

Lang conducting a master class. He may look like a rock star but his master classes are the outcome of profound research and musicianship.

Lord May and Jim Wolfensohn are inspirational figures for all of us. Thus Jim Wolfensohn and our Vice-Chancellor and I recently explored together how the University of Sydney might expand its role, capacity building in the poorest parts of our Region. We already help train doctors from Vietnam, assist the government of East Timor on governance and plan to help build administrative capacity in Cambodia. These are but three examples among many. Then there are the important initiatives furthered on this visit with our partners in Hong Kong and mainland China. They range across public health, business management, the sciences and law. They cover both research and its practical application in collaborative projects as well as student and faculty exchange.

But all education begins in the home. Today we celebrate your graduation with your families and loved ones. All have come to join you in the celebration of this day, and are so proud of you. To your family we owe a deep debt of gratitude. It is for the sacrifices they have made in order that you might have the opportunity to excel. As we confer **our** degree upon you, we at the University, all your Deans here today acknowledge your hard work and rejoice in your achievements.

Your family and friends are your guanxi, your domestic network, your vital support. By joining alumni of the University of Sydney your network now embraces your whole university family and community, more international than ever. Please use us – we are there for you. And when you achieve your place in the sun, help us to help others. Remember Professor John Wong's eloquent words this week; we owe our achievements – in your case still to come – to our university. And, certainly, to the character and dedication that has brought you to this graduation.

And now to our distinguished speaker.

GFK Santow
Hong Kong
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