Remarks at Warwick Graduates' Association (Hong Kong) 10th Anniversary Celebration Reception

by

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Ms. Yvonne Leung, Professor David VandeLinde, the Honourable Elsie Leung, Mr. Andrew Millburn, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am very grateful to the Warwick Graduates Association for inviting me to be part of the Association's 10th Anniversary celebrations. I have a deep attachment to Warwick University, and am honoured to be here with you today.

May I offer my own personal note of welcome to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor VandeLinde, and to Mrs. VandeLinde, for travelling so far to share this important occasion.

The large number of Warwick graduates here today is proof of the strong connections between Warwick University and Hong Kong and China.

I did not have the privilege to attend Warwick – I fear my university days were behind me when the University was founded in 1965. But my former supervisor at the University of Cambridge, Geoffrey Wilson, was Founding Professor in the School of Law at Warwick.

I will always look up to Professor Wilson, as he, more than anyone, was responsible for taking a very young and not very studious David Li, and somehow stuffing enough knowledge into him to allow him to graduate a few years later with a degree in Law.

It is through Professor Wilson that I came to know Warwick. I shared with him his pride, as Warwick established itself as one of the top 10 universities in Britain.

On one of my first visits to Warwick, Professor Wilson showed me the academic gown that he had designed for the doctor of laws, a striking garment in scarlet and purple. Little did I know then that I would one day don that gown, to receive an honorary doctorate from The University of Warwick.

Professor Wilson and I later established the Geoffrey Wilson-David Li Kwok-po Innovation Fund to support comparative studies of legal systems. Last year, with contributions from leading legal minds, we published an English and a Chinese edition of the volume *The English Criminal Justice Process*.

The book has been very well received world-wide, and has now been distributed to universities and legal practitioners throughout China. It is our hope that this reference work will help bridge the differences between the traditions and cultures of different legal systems, by detailing how one country has responded to challenges that all legal systems face. I am very grateful to Professor Mike McConville, Professor Wilson, and all who assisted in this work at Warwick and beyond for bringing this important volume to print.

May I now take this opportunity to congratulate the Warwick Graduates' Association on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary. May the Association grow and prosper, as indeed the University has done over the past 40 years.

Thank you.