

## An Expression of Gratitude upon Retirement

Huang Chun-chieh

President Sun Chen 孫震, President Li Si-chen 李嗣涇, honored guests, teachers, and students:

Good morning! I want to thank everyone for braving the cold weather to participate in this morning's gathering. I shall forever warmly remember the kindness that everyone has shown me today.

Forty-six and a half years have elapsed since I began working as a teaching assistant at my old school until today. I first would like to thank National Taiwan University for the many benefits they have bestowed on me for nearly half a century. I remember that when I began as a teaching assistant, my monthly salary was a mere NT\$2,000. In those days, the government allocated coal, rice, oil, and salt. At the beginning of each month, a small truck, commissioned by the government, would come around distributing containers of oil and large and small bags of rice. For coal and salt, the government gave out coupons. We had difficulty making ends meet, and we went around in tattered clothing. I remember those innocent days of poverty as if they were yesterday. But time and tide wait for no man. In a flash, more than forty years have passed. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the teachers of this university who have taught me over the past forty years, to all the students who have entered my classroom, and to National Taiwan University itself for this wonderful academic environment where I could meet such talented colleagues and make them my friends. Just now President Yang Pan-chyr 楊泮池 presented me a letter of appointment as "Distinguished Chair Professor of NTU." This is an exceptional honor for me. While unworthy, I am more than happy to take this appointment. I told President Yang that I will continue to offer classes, but I will do so without drawing a salary. From now on, I will work without pay as a way of showing my gratitude to National Taiwan University.

Next I would like to extend thanks to Prof. Kuan Chung-ming 管中閔 for



taking over as head of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof. Kuan is an internationally well-known quantitative economist with both intelligence and experience. I strongly believe that the Institute for Advanced Studies, under Prof. Kuan's outstanding leadership, will achieve new heights of academic scholarship. Thank you, Prof. Kuan.

I also want to thank Director Chu Mau-nan 朱茂男. A thirtieth-generation direct descendent of the great Southern Song Confucian Zhu Xi 朱熹, he, along with President Sun Chen, for more than ten years, has promoted Confucianism and Zhu Xi studies. Every year he and a fellow Confucian scholar lead a group of students on the "Zhu Xi route." His taking East Asian students under his wing these many years has greatly contributed to Confucianism and Zhu Xi studies. Today Director Zhu donated funds to National Taiwan University for the benefit of East Asian Confucian studies. I am filled with admiration at his generosity.

Finally, I wish to thank Prof. Wang Tzu-cheng 王子承 and his students for their wonderful violin performance. The melodious violin music lingers in our ears and pulls at our heart strings. I also thank the NTU faculty and staff chorus for their excellent performance. I will always fondly remember the wonderful times we spent together at National Taiwan University. I thank all the assistants and staff members of the Institute for Advanced Studies for their hard work for the university and its academic mission these past few years. And I thank all the teachers, students, and good friends who got up on this stage today to give speeches, especially Prof. Nargiza Amirova of the Institute for Advanced Research, Nagoya University; Prof. Shen Guowei 沈国威 of the Society for Cultural Interaction in East Asia; and Director Chen Yude 陳裕德 and family from Shanghai. Two years ago, an organization asked me to give a lecture, and attending the lecture was a senior faculty member who said to me, "Forty years ago I attended your class, and I still remember something you said." I asked her what I said, and she replied, "Wherever I feel at peace, there is my home!"<sup>1</sup> I greatly appreciate the encouragement that she gave me. So, teachers, students, and friends, let us encourage one another: "Wherever we feel at peace, there is our home!" Thank you,

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1 This is a quote from "Everyone envies you, the dashing gentleman" 常羨人間琢玉郎, a lyric to the tune of "Ding feng bo" 定風波, by Su Shi 蘇軾. This lyric translates as follows: "Everyone envies you, the dashing gentleman. Even Heaven responds by giving you a soft woman of song. She composes a song sung a cappella and sings it through snow-white teeth. Her sweet voice, like snowflakes flying through the air on hot summer day, makes all seem cool and refreshing. Coming home from afar, she seems even younger. She smiles, and her smile seems to carry the scent of plum blossoms of the south. Attempting to make conversation, I ask her, "Isn't it nice down south?" She replies, "Wherever I feel at peace, there is my home."

everyone! May you enjoy good health in body and mind, and may you continue to grow!



Secretary General Professor Shen Gouwei presented a Letter of Appreciation to Ex-President Chun-chieh Huang for his contribution to the Society

