

**Welcome Speech by Lucy Yen
at the HKU Law Alumni Reunion Dinner (27 November 2009)**

Distinguished guests and fellow alumni,

Welcome to our Anniversary Reunion Dinner.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the setting up of the first law school in Hong Kong.

Tonight we come together to celebrate not only the founding of our law school in 1969 but also to express our gratitude for many things.

We are grateful for the efforts made by those before 1969 that made the founding of our law school possible.

We are grateful for the efforts made by those early faculty members who were adventurous enough to take on the task of setting up the first law school in Hong Kong. Professor Evans, Professor Rear and Mr. Downey were the 3 brave souls who in September 1969 came face to face with their first batch of students, 40 equally brave guinea pigs.

We are grateful for the efforts made by all the faculty members and staff, past and present, whose collective commitment, together with the vision of our University, established our law school as the finest in Asia.

Tonight we also come together to celebrate the contribution that our law school and its graduates have made to the upholding of the rule of law in Hong Kong. Contributions made

not only by those graduates who have emerged as leaders in their fields, but every graduate who by doing things in the right way and with his/her heart in the right place is contributing to the upholding of the rule of law in Hong Kong.

Most importantly of all, we come to celebrate the shared belief that our law school and its graduates, past and future, will continue the quest of upholding the rule of law and all that it embraces.

Our law school will always have the support of its Alumni in this quest and in its commitment to excellence.

In our celebration we do not forget our younger generation who will be taking up our torch in the future. That is why tonight, HKU Law Alumni Charity Limited will launch a donation campaign for the “The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association Fund” which it has set up for scholarship and financial assistance for our law students.

Finally may I share with you one of my favourite quotes from George Bernard Shaw “Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I’ve got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations.”

Thank you.