

English Translation of Mr. Li Jiange's Speech

Honorable Shimon Peres, former President of Israel
Mr Ofir Akunis, Minister of Science, Technology and Space of Israel
Mr Li Ka-shing, Chairman of Li Ka Shing Foundation
Mr Zhu Xiaodan, Governor of Guangdong province
Vice Minister Hao Ping
Vice Minister Liu Qian
Vice Governor Chen Yunxian
Distinguished Guests from around the world
Colleagues and Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning! Even though I have served society in different capacities for over 46 years, I am filled with excitement and emotions at this inauguration ceremony as I assume the position of inaugural President of GTIIT today. It is a great honor and privilege for me, but it also carries great responsibility, so please allow me to express my deep gratitude to China's Ministry of Education, Guangdong Province, Shantou City, Mr Li Ka-shing, GTIIT Board of Directors and colleagues for your support, trust and love.

After a long service in government, academia and financial industry, why did I gladly accept this heavy burden? The reason is that I have always held sacred that education is the legacy of the soul of a nation. This is a mission of immense gravity, but I am confident that, together with my dear colleagues, we can foster Technion's mission of "Education for Nation Building", advocating for independent and free thinking in a campus culture that dares to question status quo; transplanting the Israeli innovative gene for encouraging discovery and acceptance of failure to cultivate international cutting-edge talents in science and engineering for Guangdong Province. The timing is also fortuitous as the Chinese Government has mandated policies in support of innovation and technological development providing a truly conducive environment for GTIIT.

I want to thank Governor Zhu Xiaodan and all the leaders of Guangdong Province and Shantou City for your energy and vision to spur growth with innovation and committing great resources in cultivating talents to develop science and technology for China's economic transition.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Education and other departments of China's Central Government. Our shared mission is to model Technion's educational goals to pursue new dreams and ideals to promote reform in the educational system and compose a new chapter for innovative education in China.

I also want to thank the Israeli Government and the colleagues at Technion, facilitating the progress of human civilization through science and technology has been the common aspiration of China and Israel. GTIIT will continue the fine tradition of Technion in Shantou, Guangdong Province so as to build the "Silicon Valley" in South China.

My heartfelt thanks go to our philanthropic and indefatigable Chairman Mr Li Ka-shing, for his vision and unwavering support of education — a subject of great importance to him. His life-long commitment to education manifests itself in his firm belief that "Knowledge changes Fate, Education reshapes Life". It is extremely touching that for more than 30 years, not only has he provided resources, but moreover his caring actions day after day. His visionary initiative and generous donation for the founding of GTIIT is another great gift to the Chaozhou-Shantou region, Guangdong Province and China. At the Shantou University Commencement Ceremony this year, Mr Li said, "Survivors" drift without aims while "thrivers" constantly seek ways to change the world and create a better future. Today, at this inaugural celebration of GTIIT, we are a group of "thrivers" gathered here to witness the grand initiation ceremony of GTIIT, a great historical moment to be remembered by us all.

Thank you!