

**Doctor *Honoris casusa* Lecture – Professor Ada E. Yonath
Welcome Speech**

**Rector Yonghua Song
9th June, 2018**

Dear Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macao SAR, Dr. Tam Chon Weng,
Dear distinguished speaker, Professor Ada Yonath,
Dear Chair of the Univeristy Council, Dr. Peter Lam,
Dear honorable guests, colleagues, students, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the University of Macau! It is our great honour to have your presence for the conferment ceremony of Doctor *honoris causa* on Professor Ada Yonath, a Nobel laureate in chemistry, in recognition of her remarkable contributions to biomedical sciences. The University of Macau confers this honorary title on individuals who have accomplished a significantly high caliber of achievements that bring great contributions to mankind, to the community and to the University.

As a world-renowned scientist and an expert in ribosome research, Prof. Yonath's research works are highly influential to the medical sector, and have significantly promoted the development of new medications for improvement of the overall living standards of human mankind. And for her pioneering discoveries on the structure and function of ribosomes, Professor Yonath was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009, and many more principal awards for her research contributions in the field. In addition, Professor Yonath had been a member of the International Advisory Committee of the University of Macau, and is currently a member of the advisory board of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

As a young university undergoing expansion in research and teaching, all of us in the University of Macau are very thankful to renowned scientists and experts like Prof. Yonath who spare time to share research experience with our faculty members and to give advice on the development of the Faculty. Indeed in recent years, through the effort of the university community, growing regional and international collaborations and inviting world-renowned scholars to visit and collaborate or to deliver lectures and talks in our University, we have made several breakthroughs in various fields. For example, we have five fields with papers that have met the required number of citations in the last 10 years to become ESI top 1%. They are engineering, pharmacology & toxicology, clinical medicine, computer science and social sciences. Also, our progress is being recognized in world university rankings such as QS and THE

in recent years. Hence, we will continue to work hard to create conditions favorable for the steady growth and development of the University and will devote more effort on attracting top scholars, establishing research facilities, conducting interdisciplinary research, etc.. We hope to see more distinguished experts and researchers visiting Macao and the University of Macau in the near future.

Today, we are very honoured to have Professor Yonath here with us. She is going to deliver a lecture titled “Next generation species specific eco-friendly antibiotics and thoughts about origin of life”. It is one of the many examples of how her magnificent research work can shed lights on medical developments for better life qualities. I am sure that our audience will be highly inspired by Professor Yonath’s lecture for better understanding on how origin of life is linked to antibiotics.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please give a big hand to welcome the 2009 Nobel laureate and our honorary degree recipient of the Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, Professor Ada Yonath.