

Wedding Speech by Dr. Johnny Hon, London (UK), 23rd July 2005

Your Excellencies, relatives, friends and most importantly.....Mrs Hon.

There are some moments, rare though they might be, when one's feelings are so deep, one's sentiments are so profound, that only the very simplest of words can possibly hope to do them some justice.

If ever there was such a moment for me, it is now.

So, let me tell you all, very simply:

This is the happiest day of my life.

It joins some other cherished moments, which will stay engraved in my heart forever as the steps on the road that have brought me here today.

Firstly, the time when I first set eyes on Selina and had my first experience of feeling a unique bond with another human being, such that I have never felt before.

Then that priceless moment when I knew I was in love.

And lastly, that, moment on the famed Great Wall of China, when I went down on my knees and Selina raised my spirits to the heavens by accepting my proposal of marriage.

As many of you know, Selina and I have known each other for over four-and-a-half years now. I have had plenty of time to learn all her good points. She has had plenty of time to learn all my bad ones. In order for me to tell you how special a girl she is, let me remind you that I had one and a half billion to choose from!

But when I saw Selina today, looking so wonderfully beautiful, I knew that I had hit the jackpot!!

And so today, before more than 200 witnesses, I make a solemn promise to Selina's family members.

Please set your hearts at ease.

I will look after Selina. I will take good care of her. And I will do everything to make her happy.

Many of you here today are my colleagues in one field or another. But more importantly, you are all my dear friends. To all of you, I owe so much.

I was looking forward to the opportunity of making a long speech. But the wedding planners are very strict. I think they must be working to Selina's instructions. After all, she has been working full time on today for the last year.

So, they have given me just three minutes.

It is not enough time to thank all the people I need to thank. But let me try my best and please forgive me for those I have had to skip over.

I want to thank my mother and father. For the way they raised me. To work hard. Play fair. And to put others before myself.

My Godmother, Grace, who gave so much of her time and herself to my formative years.

My brother Stephen, for all the fights we had when we were children (most of which I won!), but for always being there at times of crisis.

My best man Danny, who I first met in the classroom and playground in Hong Kong. Wherever in the world our different paths have taken us, we talk every week. And a lot more often as this day approached. In fact I'm sure that Selina sometimes wondered if I was marrying her or Danny.

Selina, do you believe me now?

My PhD supervisors, Professor Holland and Professor Huppert, who taught me intellectual integrity as well as the finer points of medical science.

My senior colleagues and advisers, past and present, who never refuse my requests or demands, no matter at what time of day or night they are made.

Those of you who have made such exceptional efforts to be here – travelling from the mainland of China, from Hong Kong, Korea, Qatar, Japan, Germany, the United States, Grenada, Saint Vincent, Barbados, and elsewhere. Words cannot express my gratitude.

A special thank you goes to the wedding planners – Jane Hall and her team. I'm sure you will all agree that their arrangements have been flawless.

But above all, I must thank the Chen family for the honour of joining our two families together as one forever.

And last, but most definitely not least, Selina for making me the world's happiest and most proud man.

Over the next year, Selina and I will be taking three honeymoons on four continents – in Europe, Africa, Latin America – and Antarctica. Yes, I did mean the one with the South Pole!

In the meantime, I'm afraid, Monday is a working day.

Selina, I do feel sorry that you have to endure my workaholic ways. But, I have great ambitions for my company. And this is the only way I know how to do it. I don't just want my companies to make money. I want Global to be a force for good in the world. To bring light where there is darkness. I want it to be a fitting inheritance for our children. I want it to be something that makes Selina proud of me.

And with all your help, I'll do it.

Thank you all very much indeed.

Johnny Hon
London, UK.
23/07/2005