

## AWARDER AND AWARDING SPEECH BY PROF. JOÃO NUNO CALVÃO DA SILVA, VICE-RECTOR (EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND ALUMNI), UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

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Esteemed Vice-Rector of the University of Macau,

Esteemed Directors of the Faculties of Law of the Universities  
of Macau and Coimbra,

Dear Friends,

Today is a very special day. A day that was necessary, institutionally  
and personally.

As Vice-Rector of the University of Coimbra in charge of  
International Relations and Alumni, today's tribute was a natural  
decision and a tribute that had to be paid in Macau. A great name of  
the Faculty of Law and the entire University of Coimbra, Professor  
Manuel Lopes Porto was and is also a great name in Macau, especially  
at the University of Macau, for more than three decades.

We all know Manuel Porto's very rich CV: an impressive political  
CV, including his two terms as a Member of the European Parliament;  
a brilliant academic CV, reaching the highest of academic life at the  
*Alma Mater* of Portuguese-speaking Universities, while also embracing  
the demanding duties of university management, as Director of the  
Faculty of Law, a position that Professor Jónatas Machado, a dear  
friend here today, also holds with excellence.

A joint seminar between the Faculties of Law of the Universities of Coimbra and Macau around our Professor Manuel Porto is also a tribute to this long-standing and decisive link in Sino-Lusophone friendship. A friendship that in Macau owes so much in recent times to names such as Rui Martins, Manuel Trigo, Gabriel Tong, Wei Dan and Paulo Canelas de Castro, to whom I would like to thank for his commitment in organising this afternoon's scientific conference.

Personally, if I may say so, I am deeply happy to have arranged, with the University of Macau, this very special moment for Professor Manuel Porto and his family. Because Manuel Porto deserves it. Manuel Porto deserves everything.

Manuel Porto is a good man. A man who only wants the good of others and only sees the good in others.

Manuel Porto is an immaculate citizen, dedicated to the community, not only in politics, but also in other public spheres, such as his work with the Catholic Church, an example of which is his presidency of the Academic Centre for Christian Democracy.

Manuel Porto is a caring and passionate husband, a loving father and grandfather. For him, family is above all else. Even in his frequent physical absences, Manuel Porto never fails to be very present.

Manuel Porto is his friend's friend, everyone's friend. A huge heart, an example to all his friends, his family by affection.

Manuel Porto is a happy man. Happy because he is good and grateful. Grateful for everything he has.

I try to draw inspiration from Manuel Porto every day: his kindness, his justice, his simplicity – typical of the great Masters –, his gratitude to God.

This tribute that I have dreamed up is, in this sense, a way of showing my gratitude, our gratitude, to Professor Manuel Porto...

Thank you, Professor Manuel Porto. Thank you for being the way you are and giving us hope in human nature. Thank you for everything!

João Nuno Calvão da Silva  
Vice-Rector for External Relations and Alumni of the University of  
Coimbra