

## COMMENDATION SPEECH BY PROF. WEI DAN, ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH), FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

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I am very honored to be here to pay tribute to Professor Manuel Porto. My Professor.

I do not intend to detail the great work of Professor Manuel Porto, nor his life path, but only to highlight some personal notes about the person and the professional Manuel Porto.

Professor Manuel Porto's academic career allowed him to develop an enviable scientific knowledge, and he knows how to use it in the most intelligent way for the liberation of minds in various domains. In the ten years that he served Europe as a member of the European Parliament, he was involved in the construction of Europe and the consolidation of European Law, but also at the service of international organizations such as the World Bank and the OECD, Professor Porto contributed to the adoption of international policies designed for the global context.

Yes, we are not talking about a "simple" Portuguese citizen, but an intellectual who always knew how to feel himself international, who always believed that international relations were the key to building nations and to strengthen cultures.

My academic career allowed me to cross paths with Professor Manuel Porto in 1999, at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, when I went there to pursue my master's studies. I remember as if it were today the simplicity of a great man when he accepted to accompany the preparation of my Master's Dissertation. The charm was so great

that I did not hesitate to knock on his door again to accompany me for the PhD.

I have indelibly recorded the various moments, during the preparation of both the master's dissertation and the doctoral thesis, in which at each meeting I received valuable advice from Professor Porto. In each of those meetings, the Chinese saying that "A single conversation with a wise man is worth a month of book study" became more and more crystallized to me.

I had the honor of translating his book "The Theory of Integration and Community Policies" from Portuguese to Chinese and as I was translating, I was fascinated by the intelligence with which it was written, a timeless work that still serves as a reference for scholars of international economic relations, especially on regional integration and inspires our master's students.

His lessons in this book represent a continuous contribution to a greater knowledge of the reality of European construction, by students of different degrees and from different areas (from Law to Economics, Political Science or International Relations) and by a much wider public, professionals and citizens in general, who cannot fail to be determined in their daily lives by this reality, so it is not surprising that it is constantly updated in its various editions, to accommodate current aspects of the life of Europe and the European Union, allowing its readers to be always updated.

But it is not only in the academic field that Professor Manuel Porto reveals his greatness. In the 25 years of coexistence and friendship he has revealed himself at every moment to be a great man, a human being of indescribable and immeasurable qualities.

A Chinese proverb says that "friends are like stars, even if you can't always see them, you know they're always there", this is to say that true friendship transcends physical distance and time. Although

geographically separated and the daily chores do not allow permanent contact, the truth is that Professor Manuel Porto has always been that ever-present star, a true friend.

With his characteristic humility, Professor Manuel Porto is a personality of recognized moral authority. By solemnizing the Scholar Manuel Porto, we simultaneously celebrate the man respected in various continents and social strata, whose path has always been marked by respect for diversity, recognition of the Other and his knowledge, humility, an immeasurable dose of humanism.

His constant engagement with teaching activities even when he could be enjoying his retirement is a reference to his commitment to other people and nurturing young generations with knowledge and a contribution to building better societies.

Due to the greatness of the person, some will say that this tribute is not very representative. It may be, I agree, but exalting the achievements of Professor Manuel Porto represents for us the crystallization of his thought and of knowing how to be and to live in a society, to continue to inspire generations.

Many congratulations! Professor Manuel Porto!

And thank you for being such a great intellectual and human being. From you we will continue to seek inspiration for our professional and personal lives so that we can also inspire others. That is our commitment to you!

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October, 2024.

