

# Honorary Doctor of Laws

## Mr Henry TANG Ying-yen

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Citations written and delivered by Professor CHENG Pei-kai

Chairman:

Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen is still in his prime but his name has already travelled far and wide. Not only is he well-known to every household in Hong Kong, but he is a famous leader in China and the world. While the world economy is struggling to recover, much of Asia is still living in the shadow of a financial crisis, and financial management in Hong Kong is facing difficulties and uncertainty. Mr Tang, upholding the interests of the community, decided to step up to meet the challenges by serving as its financial secretary. His determination, sense of mission, confidence and forward-looking optimism are major boosts to Hong Kong during its process of economic recovery.

Mr Tang was born to an industrialist family, and obtained his Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. Before he entered public service, he had worked 25 years in the textiles and electronics industries of Hong Kong. As an outstanding young industrialist, he received a Young Industrialist Award in 1989, and was named a Global Leader in the 1993 World Economic Forum. From 1995 to 2001, he chaired the Hong Kong Federation of Industries, served as Director of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and as Steward of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He has been active in community service and devoted to social activities.

From social service and industry, Mr Tang ventured into the arenas of politics, culture and education in 1991 serving as a member of the Legislative Council until 1998. In 1997, he was appointed as Member of the Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and participated in all areas of government policy planning. His public service includes membership in numerous government committees and public bodies, for example, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Town Planning Board, the University Grants Committee, and the Council of the City University of Hong Kong. In 2002, he joined the Government as the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, before becoming the Financial Secretary a few months ago.

Mr Tang's career has been successful and prosperous, with impressive achievements in industry, commerce and politics. Yet, he is a modest person, genteel and approachable, always seeking advice and putting together ideas from others. He has applied the work experience he gained in his own business to the Government. He maintains that public bodies and private business are alike; they have to answer to their shareholders. The Government's shareholders are the people—the taxpayers. He believes the success of a company hinges on the collaborative spirit of all its employees, across the ranks, from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer to the receptionist. Everyone in the company plays an equally important role in making it a success. In the Government, in the eyes of Mr Tang, the same situation applies. The entire civil service, high or low in rank, has to work together to revive Hong Kong's economy. He hopes his management style in the Government is similar to one he used in the private sector: to listen to all the views, to pay heed to rational ideas, to work seamlessly with his colleagues so as to maximize the best potential.

Mr Tang has been very enthusiastic in community service and social causes. He is a worthy example for the young people of Hong Kong. For the bright future of Hong Kong's economy, he took up the job of Financial Secretary, earning our respect and admiration.

Mr Chairman, now I present to you Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.