

Honorary Fellow Mr Lau Tat-chuen

Public Orator Professor Matthew Lee Kwok-on

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Mr Lau Tat-chuen was born in a mountain village in Fujian. Since his early childhood, he has learnt to be independent and self-reliant, ready to take on the challenges brought by the difficult circumstances surrounding him. By words and deeds, the elders in his family taught him that it is more fortunate to give than to receive, strengthening his resolve to do his utmost to repay society for what it had given him. At 25, Mr Lau came to Hong Kong. Having worked in various capacities, Mr Lau continues to reflect on his experiences, which led him to the success that he enjoys today. In 2004, he established Sino International Industrial (Group) HK Limited, where he is currently Director. He is also the founder of Tang Tat Home for Elder, On Fuk Nursing Home and Tang Fuk Home for Elder. For more than a decade, Mr Lau has tried to broaden the scope of his business in keeping with the times. Today, the scope of his involvement spans a wide range of areas, including equity investment, property and real estate, hospital management and elderly care.

When he was growing up, Mr Lau witnessed the helplessness of vulnerable members of society, and his empathy for them naturally developed. Since then, he has been enthusiastic in promoting the public good, and he regards helping others as a source of happiness. Life was hard when he first arrived in Hong Kong, but as soon as his economic situation improved, he remitted money to his hometown to help it develop. Later, he took up various public offices, and actively participated in local affairs, making significant contributions to educational and community development. Mr Lau is now Chairman of Welfare Enterprises Associated Limited, Director of Pok Oi Hospital, Permanent President of Shine Tak Foundation, and Executive Director of the Hong Kong Fujian Charitable Education Fund.

Mr Lau firmly believes that education can change one's destiny, a conviction that he demonstrates through his actions. Never ceasing to learn, not only did he make use of his spare time to complete an MBA degree, he makes it a habit to explore the why and wherefore of daily life, sometimes arriving at the profoundest insights from observing something quite trivial. He is fascinated by the myriad phenomena of the world, and is eager to learn all about them. When he travels, either for business or pleasure, he is not content with only enjoying the natural sights, but also seeks to understand local customs and humanistic and systemic accomplishments, which have given him many business inspirations and life lessons. Many ideas for the elderly care project that he is currently promoting in mainland China have been inspired by what he has learned from his visits to the US, Japan and Taiwan.

Mr Lau keeps up a regular regimen of exercise, which allows him to gain insights into life, too. For example, in golf, his favorite sport, there often arise unforeseeable situations that require the utmost patience and concentration to resolve. To be sure, this bears remarkable resemblance to what one encounters in life.

Mr Lau is in complete agreement with the educational mission of CityU, which receives his unreserved support. For many years, he has actively sought to promote collaborations between the University and the community. He established an international exchange scholarship to help those students who are economically underprivileged, and assisted the Department of Management Sciences in the College of Business to develop the "Community Nurses–Satellite Distribution" project. He is currently Honorary Patron of the CityU Foundation and a CityU Court member. He looks forward to seeing CityU continue to dedicate itself to helping students to develop a respectful and professional attitude to their work, a love for humanity, and a persistent pursuit of excellence. He would also encourage students to take the initiative to learn about new developments in the world, the country and society. With meticulous critical thinking, they can bring their originality and scientific knowledge into play in the common effort of building a better future.

In face of the global economic crisis today, Mr Lau believes that it is natural for the economy to fluctuate. What comes down eventually goes up. He sees no reason, therefore, for us to be overly pessimistic or discouraged. Rather, we should make use of the recession to better equip ourselves for the future.

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council, President, by means of his own hard work, Mr Lau Tat-chuen has arrived at his stellar accomplishments. He is by nature optimistic. Well-considered in his actions, he is methodical in the way he advances and retreats, and is neither arrogant with his success nor discouraged by his setbacks. Dedicated to the welfare of the socially vulnerable, he reaches out to benefit society at large. All this makes Mr Lau Tat-chuen a model for our younger generation. May I request the University to confer upon Mr Lau Tat-chuen the title of Honorary Fellow.