

# Honorary Fellow Mr David Fong Man-hung

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Kelvin Yau Kai-wing*

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President,

Graffiti has always been a controversial form of art. These flamboyant paintings or scribbles tend to be least appreciated in a city. But Mr David Fong Man-hung had a different point of view. A few years ago he and his teenage son stumbled across some graffiti on the street, prompting the two of them to debate the rights and wrongs of such public art. Impressed with his son's positive arguments and sympathetic attitude towards graffiti artists, Mr Fong knew there might be something he could do. He began by letting local graffiti artists use the stairwells between ten floors in an industrial building in Wong Chuk Hang. This project eventually extended to the use of a 5,000-square-foot floor in the building, at a cost only one dollar a year. The project was called "Spray Your Rainbow", and the aim was to encourage local teenagers to distinguish vandalism from art while at the same time helping them to unleash their creativity and build confidence.

The graffiti episode is only one illustration of Mr David Fong's liberal-mindedness. He is currently the Managing Director of Hip Shing Hong Group, one of the largest unlisted property developers in Hong Kong. The Group was founded by his grandfather, the late philanthropist Mr Fong Shu-chuen, and father, Hong Kong billionaire Fong Yun-wah, in 1948. Mr Fong is also the Director of the Fong Shu-fook Tong Foundation and Vice-Chairman of Fong's Family Foundation. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Simon Fraser in Canada and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Hong Kong.

Mr Fong left for California in 1985 to work with his elder brother on the family's real estate business there. In 1993, Mr Fong returned to Hong Kong and joined Hip Shing Hong, a call of duty to assist his father in running the family business. It is not easy working by the side of a veteran captain of industry but father and son maintained a good relationship, which is probably a family trait as demonstrated in the graffiti debate. In an

interview by *Forbes* magazine, Mr Fong admitted that it was very difficult to reform a company in a family corporation, especially when the patriarch was a conservative and frugal man who did not believe in glamour. But he managed to do so. Today Hip Shing Hong Group has become a solid real estate developer with a well-diversified portfolio of commercial, residential, industrial, retail, hotel and serviced apartment properties in prime locations. It has also won awards such as “Distinguished Family-friendly Employer”, “Outstanding Corporate Citizenship” and “HKMA Quality Award”.

Mr Fong is also an advocate of sustainability and is dedicated to supporting green initiatives organised by different NGOs in Hong Kong. Under his eminent leadership, Hip Shing Hong has been awarded several green awards, including the CarbonCare Championship, Green Management Award and Low-Carbon Office Operation Program (LOOP) Platinum Label by the World Wide Fund for Nature–Hong Kong.

Mr Fong is an entrepreneur best known for his deep concern for the welfare of the country and society. He has made considerable contributions to socio-economic development, education and social services in Hong Kong. Among his other public roles, he is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, and the Standing Committee of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce. He is Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Hong Kong Strategy, a director of the Friends of Hong Kong Association, a council member of Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF, and a member of the Advisory Committee on the Revitalisation of Historic Buildings, and the Social Welfare Advisory Committee.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2008 and was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2011 by the HKSAR government. He is highly supportive of CityU, having served as a Council member from 2007 to 2012, and is currently a member of the University Court.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, I am greatly privileged today to present Mr David Fong for the award of Honorary Fellowship of this University.