

## **Honorary Doctor of Business Administration**

### **Mr YEUNG Kin-man**

Citation written and delivered by Professor Matthew LEE Kwok-on

Mr Pro-Chancellor:

Mr Yeung Kin-man is a distinguished industrialist and a generous philanthropist in Hong Kong. He founded Biel Crystal Manufactory Limited in Hong Kong in 1986, and he is currently the Chief Executive of Biel Crystal (HK) Manufactory Limited.

Mr Yeung set up factories for manufacturing watch glass in Shenzhen in the early years. Always absorbed in scientific research, he was already adept in technological innovations at that time. With his unique insights, he foresaw the potential of manufacturing glass screens for electronic products. By applying his knowledge about optical engineering, he produced clear sapphires with pure aluminium and fine ceramics with zirconium powder. He also applied such materials as superhard aluminosilicate glass with electron optics on consumer electronics such as smartphones, smart watches and tablets, and gradually built his empire of mobile phone screens. Nowadays, the screens of six out of 10 iPhones are made by Biel. Other famous mobile phone brands such as South Korea's Samsung, Japan's Sony, and China's Xiaomi and Huawei are his clients. Moreover, one-third of the 30 million watches produced in Europe use Biel's products. Biel ranks 68th in the Top 500 enterprises and 23rd in the Top 100 manufacturers in Guangdong in 2016.

From the beginning of his business ventures, Mr Yeung has encountered a few setbacks. His watch store was once broken into and a factory of his burnt down. These incidents, however, did nothing to alter his determination to strike out for a business empire of his own. "Be flexible and resilient: roll with the punches and embrace adversity" runs the motto that he lives by. Such is the fighting spirit that urges him to step up to confront difficulties that come his way, allowing him to proclaim proudly that "What others can't do, Biel can; what others can do, Biel can do better". In this way, he maintains a leading advantage in the corporate world of optical engineering.

Born and raised locally, Mr Yeung the industrialist succeeded in opening up Hong Kong's manufacturing market with the production of materials for mobile phone screens. He expanded his business to that of large glass crystal suitable for smartphone and tablet computer screens. He thus broadened the horizons for Hong Kong's industries even more as he led the way to a new field of innovative technology. For these efforts, he has been showered with accolades of all kinds, for instance, the Fifth Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility Award and the 2015 Leader of the Year of the Commerce and Industry/Finance Sector awarded by *Sing Tao Daily*. In 2016, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Mr Yeung is a kind-hearted and compassionate philanthropist. By a rough count, the monetary and other donations that he has made in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Huizhou have amounted to several hundred million dollars. His reasoning is straightforward: commercial enterprises derive their capital from society. When members of society face economic difficulties that they cannot solve, entrepreneurs have the responsibility to help them overcome them. He strongly believes that the participation of the corporate sectors in philanthropy will lead to social harmony. This, in turn, will enable the corporate world to generate greater good for the public even as it derives economic benefits for itself.

Mr Yeung is dedicated to serving Hong Kong and mainland China by assuming a wide range of public offices, such as serving as a member of the Huizhou Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, member of the Shenzhen Longgang District Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Consultant of the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories, member of the Board of Trustees of The Better Hong Kong Foundation, Honorary Chairman of The Association of Hong Kong Professionals, President of the Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Association, and Executive Vice-Chairman of the Happy Hong Kong Charity Foundation. His many years of charitable activities earned him a place on the Asian Philanthropist List in the financial magazine *Forbes Asia* in July 2016, an honour that he eminently deserves.

Two years ago, Mr Chan Hon-pun, an Honorary Fellow of CityU and a member of the Board of Governors and Honorary President of the CityU Foundation, invited Mr Yeung to visit the University's campus. During the visit he was shown the exhibition of "Pure Land: Inside the Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang". Mr Yeung was struck by

the compatibility between his own enterprising spirit and the innovativeness and passion in scientific research that the University embodies. In September 2015, Mr and Mrs Yeung donated HK\$200 million to CityU in support of the development of its veterinary medicine initiatives, scholarly research and student overseas exchange programmes. He is eager to see that his donation will serve to broaden the international vision of young people, and that they will not be deprived of the opportunity of overseas exchanges because of financial difficulties.

Mr Pro-chancellor, Mr Yeung is a most influential corporate leader in Hong Kong. That he has made significant contributions to local society and our nation is all too clear. Perspicacious, hardworking and full of resolve, he is at the same time modest and broad-minded. Such are his ways of success. His passion to help all who are in need and the many actions that he has taken to promote the welfare of society make him a model for entrepreneurs and young people alike. I respectfully present to you Mr Yeung Kin-man for the award of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.