

# **Honorary Doctor of Social Science**

## **Dr CHUNG Chi-yung**

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Citation written and delivered by Professor WU Hung-i

Chairman:

I am most honoured today to be able to write and deliver the citation for a distinguished educator who has over the past several decades contributed greatly to Hong Kong society through her dedication to local education. Dr Chung Chi Yung was born in 1920 in Changsha, Hunan province. At the age of 24, she graduated from the Law Department of Wuhan University and passed the State Officials Qualifying Examination (Legal Group) with flying colours, ranking first in both cohorts. Dr Chung subsequently became the first female judge in China's history. In 1945, after her marriage to Mr Hu Hung-Lick, the couple went overseas to pursue further studies in Europe. In 1953, Dr Chung obtained her doctoral degree in laws from the University of Paris. She not only specialized in the study of juvenile delinquency, but also acquired an in-depth knowledge of the education systems of Britain and France, particularly in teaching and managing teenagers. In 1955, she and her husband settled in Hong Kong, where she began her lifelong career in the rewarding, yet challenging, field of education.

From 1956 to 1971, Dr Chung taught at the United College, Chu Hoi College, Baptist College, and Chung Chi College, respectively. At one stage, she was Head of the Social Work Department and Dean of the Arts Faculty at Baptist College. Apart from teaching and research in sociology and laws, Dr Chung took a keen interest in young peoples' academic and career pursuits, as well as related counselling services. Her views and insights were regularly published. In 1957, she translated into Chinese *Le Petit Chose*, a fiction by Alphonse Daudet, which reflects on issues involving teachers and students on school campuses in France. This work makes good reading for educators and is a testimony to Dr Chung's enthusiasm and dedication to youth education.

As the Chinese saying goes, "Jade cannot be made into anything without being cut and polished; one cannot become useful without being educated." Indeed, Chinese traditional wisdom places great emphasis on education, and it is deemed a top priority by those who govern the country and its people. Convinced by this

perception and witnessing the then dearth of tertiary education in Hong Kong, when many students were denied further education upon completing Form 6, Dr Chung decided to commit her resources to making educational opportunities more widely available. In the belief that the well-being of the community is more important than that of an individual and that one should willingly concede one's personal interests for the public good, Dr Chung, with the help of her barrister husband, founded Shue Yan College in 1971 and began her service as its vice president. The College provided an alternative and more diversified form of higher education from those three-year programmes in the mainstream tertiary education system. Its students were offered more choices and opportunities in their academic pursuits.

However, the task of promoting education in Hong Kong has not always been plain sailing for Dr Chung. In fact, she has experienced many difficulties and setbacks. Pecuniary sacrifices apart, she was particularly frustrated by two incidents. The first was in 1978, with the publishing of the White Paper on the Development of Senior Secondary and Tertiary Education, in which the government proposed to implement the mandatory "2-2-1 system". Colleges which deviated from the system were warned that they would not be granted government subsidies. A firm believer in four-year university education, Dr Chung argued strongly against this policy and subsequently rejected it. The second incident was in 1988, when the government announced that all university degree programmes had to be three years in duration so that they would fit into the British system. Again, Dr Chung voiced her objection and fought for the causes of academic freedom and educational ideals. Although her efforts proved futile, her integrity and moral principles command our greatest respect.

Even more admirable is that Dr Chung never succumbed to all these setbacks. Rather, determined to promote the cause of education in Hong Kong, she focused her energies on developing Shue Yan College. For instance, since the 1970s, the College has run joint programmes with overseas universities such as Northeast Louisiana State University in the United States. Subsequently, other joint bachelor's and master's degree programmes were offered in cooperation with Peking University, the People's University of China, and a number of renowned European, U.S. and Australian universities. The Bachelor of Laws degree programme offered in cooperation with Peking University is consistently well received by students in Hong Kong and Taiwan. So far, some 30 cohorts and nearly 20,000 students have graduated from Shue Yan College and are making valuable contributions in

different areas and sectors of our society. They have all benefited from the added educational opportunities provided by Shue Yan College, which enabled them to realize their full potential and make significant changes in their lives.

After 33 years of hard work, Shue Yan College is now widely recognized in the community. Boasting an impressive campus on Braemar Hill, it offers study programmes in seven disciplines, including Chinese, accountancy, economics, journalism, social work, business administration, and counselling and psychology. The Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation has confirmed that Shue Yan is a fully-fledged private university capable of conferring bachelor's degrees at honours level. In retrospect, we can see that it was indeed visionary of Dr Chung to insist on the ideal of four-year university education.

In addition to her accomplished educational work, Dr Chung has also participated actively service to the public. She has served as Vice-Chairman of the Fight Violent Crime Campaign of Happy Valley Committee; Member of the Wanchai City District Committee; Member of the Juvenile Courts Advisory Panel; Member of the Hong Kong Magistrate Courts Advisory Panel; Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Teachers Association; Member of the Basic Law Consultative Committee; Adviser to the State Council on Hong Kong Affairs; and Member of the First Election Committee for Chief Executive and Provisional Legislative Council. For her outstanding services, Dr Chung has received a host of honours and awards, including Honorary Professor of Wuhan University and the People's University, Honorary Adviser Professor of the Beijing Institute of Technology, the Queen's Birthday Honours Award, the Hong Kong SAR Gold Bauhinia Star Award and Honorary Doctor of Letters from the Open University of Hong Kong.

Under Dr Chung's stewardship, Shue Yan College has consistently upheld the Confucian ideal of parallel advancements in both virtue and learning. The College urges its students to acquire broad-based knowledge and practical skills, while at the same time cultivating high moral standards. A living example of what she preaches, Dr Chung and her husband have worked hard to develop Shue Yan College for the benefit of both Hong Kong youth and Hong Kong society. Looking to the future, their sons Dr Yao-su, who was awarded a PhD in economics from Oxford University, and Dr Fai-chung, who was awarded a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, have both returned to Hong Kong to assist their mother in the management and development of the College. It is

gratifying to see that Dr Chung's lifelong enterprise at Shue Yan College has found capable successors, well poised to take up the challenge of promoting education as a hundred-year endeavour.

In recognition of Dr Chung Chi-yung's altruistic and substantial contributions to the cause of education in Hong Kong, I have the pleasure of presenting her to you, Mr Chairman, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.