

# Honorary Doctor of Business Administration

## Mr David ELDON

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Citations written and delivered by Professor CHENG Pei-kai

Chairman:

Mr David Eldon was born in Scotland in 1945. He was educated at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, where rigorous military training formed a part of the overall curriculum and helped shape many essential facets of his character: personal discipline and work ethic, dedicated team work and mutual trust, and commanding confidence in leadership. These special qualities have been internalized in his life experience since he started in 1964 his banking career with an Australian banking group in London. In 1968 he joined the British Bank of the Middle East, already a member of the HSBC Group, and was posted to Dubai in the same year. He had four consecutive postings to the Middle East and spent nearly a dozen years in that area before he moved to Hong Kong.

Mr Eldon took up his first position in Hong Kong in 1979 as Manager (Special Projects) in the head office of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. He later became a District Manager, with responsibility for the Bank's branches in one of the busiest districts, Mongkok.

In 1984 Mr Eldon was appointed Deputy Managing Director of the Saudi British Bank, in Saudi Arabia. He returned to Hong Kong in 1987 to take up the position of Senior Manager (International Corporate Accounts). At the end of 1988 he was appointed Chief Executive Officer (Malaysia), and was promoted to General Manager in 1990. He returned to Hong Kong in 1992 and later became General Manager in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's International department. Mr Eldon's career continued to flourish with HSBC as he was made an Executive Director of the Bank in 1994, Chief Executive Officer in 1996 and Chairman in 1999.

Besides serving as the leader of HSBC, Mr Eldon has also been a dedicated member of various societies and charity organizations in Hong Kong. His public service records include being the Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, a

steward of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Community Chest, a Special Adviser to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and, a Council member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and President of the Society for the Relief of Disabled Children.

Mr Eldon's concern for the future of Hong Kong tertiary education is reflected in his support for the donations from the Hong Kong Bank Foundation and the Hong Kong Jockey Club towards the construction costs of City University of Hong Kong's Student Hostels Project. In the naming ceremony of the first residential block of the project, Mr Eldon said, hostel life could sharpen students' social and communication skills, nurture their leadership qualities and encourage greater participation in academic and community development.

In view of Mr Eldon's career success as a role model for our students, his social concern and public service as a loyal Hong Kong citizen, and his contribution to the quality promotion of higher education, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the University Council, I request you to confer on Mr Eldon the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.