

## **Honorary Doctor of Social Science**

### **Dr LIEN Chan**

Citation written and delivered by Professor CHENG Pei-kai

Pro-Chancellor:

Dr Lien Chan grew up in a family with a scholarly tradition, receiving his education from his father at a very young age. In addition to being an accomplished scholar, he has long devoted himself to public and political affairs and over the course of his career has become a major influence on both the academic and the political life of Taiwan. Now Honorary Chairman of the Kuomintang of China, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lien Chan Foundation for Peace and Development, Dr Lien Chan has made historic contributions to promoting peace across the Taiwan Strait, not only by encouraging cooperation between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party, but also by promoting friendly relations between Taiwan and the mainland. In so doing he has not only won the acclaim of the far-sighted, but has also opened a new page in the history of China.

Dr Lien's family originated in Longxi county in Zhangzhou prefecture, Fujian. From there his forefathers migrated to Tainan, Taiwan, where they were held in high esteem. In 1895, the Qing Government ceded Taiwan and the Penghu Islands to Japan, prompting Dr Lien's grandfather Lien Heng, who was opposed to Japanese colonial rule, to write, using his own funds, *A General History of Taiwan*. In that work he pays tribute to the Chinese people for the hard, pioneering work they had put into the development of the island. He states categorically that "a country may be conquered, but history cannot be effaced". The book communicates the historian's conviction that Taiwan would one day be restored to China. Lien Heng died in Shanghai before the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War, and among his last words were: "China and Japan are bound to go to war. If my grandchild be a boy, let him therefore be named Lien Chan ('fighting battle after battle'), which connotes both a continuous struggle for self-improvement and victory over the enemy, as well as expressing the hope of reviving our country and rebuilding our homeland." In the name that Dr Lien Chan bears, in the service he has rendered the community and in the efforts he has made for the promotion of peace between Taiwan and the mainland, one can see the culmination of

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that great and noble love that several generations of the Lien family have cherished for their country and their country's culture, in whose service they have never spared themselves.

Following his graduation in political science from the National Taiwan University, Dr Lien continued his studies in the United States, where he earned a PhD in political science from the University of Chicago in 1965. He then taught at the University of Wisconsin and subsequently at the University of Connecticut. In 1967 he returned to the Political Science Department of Taiwan University, his alma mater, where he taught for seven years, training a great number of talented young people for the benefit of Taiwan. In 1975 he left academic life to embark on a career in government. His first appointment was as ambassador to El Salvador, after which he served successively as Director of the Committee of Youth Affairs of the Kuomintang Central Committee, Deputy Secretary-General of the Central Committee, Commissioner of the National Youth Commission of the Executive Yuan, Minister of Communications and Transportation, Foreign Minister, Governor of the Taiwan province, Premier, and Vice President. In these key positions, he was able to make excellent use of his talents to contribute significantly to Taiwanese life across a wide range of subjects including science and technology, public finance, diplomatic affairs, culture and education, social welfare, and environmental protection. He thus played a crucial part in laying the foundations of social harmony for Taiwan's economic development.

In 2005, Dr Lien Chan, in his capacity as Chairman of the Kuomintang, set out on a bold and courageous "journey of peace" to the mainland, braving numerous obstacles in an attempt to pave the way for the peaceful reunification of China. In doing so he had to disregard the legacy of antagonism that had hitherto existed between the Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist Party. The great efforts he has made for the peace, prosperity, and stability of the Chinese nation transcend all personal considerations and show an epoch-making vision and courage that have won him universal admiration. His journey of peace is unquestionably one of the most significant and memorable undertakings in contemporary Chinese history and politics.

Dr Lien's contributions to the development of civil society in Taiwan and the moral courage he has displayed in promoting peaceful development in the Chinese nation exemplify the very best in Chinese culture. They also constitute an outstanding contribution to the building of world peace. Pro-Chancellor, in recognition of his great

achievements and moral integrity, I feel greatly honoured to present to you Dr Lien Chan for the conferment of the degree of Honorary Doctor of Social Science.