

Honorary Fellow Mr Yeung Ka-sing

Citation written and delivered by Professor Linda Li Che-lan

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Mr Yeung Ka-sing comes from a family of humble origins. He worked in education in the early years of his career, and turned to business later, specialising in the work of human resource management for several decades. Over the years, he has served many local and multi-national corporations with remarkable success.

Mr Yeung's family faced considerable hardship during his childhood, making it necessary for him to seek gainful employment, including working as a graduate trainee in a non-local company after he graduated from secondary school. Later, he enrolled at the former Northcote College of Education in Hong Kong, and won a scholarship to study in the UK where he studied special education. Upon his return to Hong Kong, he became one of the few experts in the field at that time and worked as an inspector for the then Education Department. He soon started his studies, on a part-time basis, for a bachelor's degree in sociology at the University of Hong Kong. In 1974, he resigned from his secure, high-paying position in the government to embark on a business career. His understanding of the intricacies of human behaviour and the positive energy that comes from his belief that "hard work never kills" have made him the outstanding person that he is today.

Mr Yeung's optimistic and indefatigable spirit prompted him to delve passionately into public service during his spare time, earning him the accolade the "King of Public Service". The public offices, community groups and social service organisations that he has served over the years number in the dozens. To name but a few, he was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Society, the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund Committee, and the Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service; a member of the Advisory Committee on Post-

service Employment of Civil Servants, a general committee member of the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong, a Co-opted member of the Societal Engagement Task Force of the Commission on Poverty; and others. Between 2008 and 2013, Mr Yeung served on the CityU Council and the many committees under its aegis, where he strongly supported the development of the University. With modesty, Mr Yeung explains that he first experienced the spirit of serving other people to the best of his ability when he joined the boy scouts. Once this habit was formed, the rest came naturally. In 2012, in recognition of Mr Yeung's many contributions to Hong Kong, the HKSAR government awarded him with the Golden Bauhinia Star.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Community Investment and Inclusion Fund Committee, Mr Yeung was particularly concerned with the shortage of housing and the ageing population. He worked conscientiously to address these two issues because they directly impacted the livelihoods of many people in Hong Kong. He was opposed to the proliferation of luxury apartments in the housing market. Instead, he advocated pragmatic methods of reinvigorating older districts and exploring the use of unused land to overcome the local housing problem. He recommended replacing luxurious features in apartment buildings with community facilities to be managed by residents. All these proposals align with the housing strategies and various housing plans for the elderly that he put forward, the goal of which has been to build up social capital for these people to assist them in pulling themselves out of poverty.

In reviewing his experience over the last few decades, Mr Yeung asserts that human resource management has constituted the biggest challenge in his work and public office duties. The key lies in maintaining positive communication between people, he maintains. Mr Yeung understands the importance of delegation, and he has never interfered with his colleagues in their division of labour. Rather than imposing a vertical management structure, he focuses instead on horizontal persuasion so that colleagues in different positions can understand the purpose and reasons of policies relevant to their jobs. In so doing, people can work in unison, bringing trust and benefit to all involved.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, Mr Yeung's experiences make him a role model for young people entering the workplace today. Most worthy of note are the keys to his success: on the one hand, the respect that he has brought to, and the pleasure that he has derived from, his work, which has enabled him to take on challenges with optimism and resilience; and on the other, his firm belief that a person's accomplishments are not to be measured by material gains. For many years, he has occupied privileged positions in business, but he has always been mindful of corporate social responsibility and the need to repay society. In commendation of these accomplishments, I request the University award Mr Yeung the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.