

Honorary Doctor of Social Science

Mr WONG Chun-hong

Public Orator Professor Horace IP Ho-shing

Mr Council Chairman:

Mr Wong Chun-hong, Chairman and CEO of Top Spring International Holdings Limited, is an accomplished member of the commercial circles in Hong Kong. His contributions to community and public affairs, especially in the building of education infrastructure, have won him high praise from his peers. For over thirty years, he has shuttled back and forth between Hong Kong and the mainland, scoring success after success while doing good deeds and benefiting the public with his charitable work, earning for himself the accolade of “scholar-businessman.” Modest and forbearing, Mr Wong treats people with sincerity, and is in every way a real gentleman.

Mr Wong is a native of Hong Kong, but grew up in the mainland where his parents took him at an early age. As a young man, he farmed in a village and later became an apprentice in automobile repairs. Even in his most difficult days, Mr Wong was determined to carve out a world of his own. The challenging task that he had to do gave him a deep appreciation of the life of the labouring masses, and made him understand the importance of hard work and resolve. On the strength of his outstanding capability and excellent performance, he was later assigned to work at Hong Kong’s China Merchants Group. Soon afterwards, he set up his own business and built it up step by step until it became the commercial empire that it is today.

In addition to developing high-quality retail brand names, Mr Wong is involved in property and real estate. As early as the beginning of this century, Mr Wong was quick to seize the opportunity to make his way into the fast-growing cities that were being linked up by the mass transit and high-speed train system. There, he simultaneously engaged in the construction of city complexes and high-end residential properties. Mr Wong has a unique business strategy of “doing good rather than doing big,” where every step is built upon a sound basis. In conducting business, he is a stickler for the market rules and places a high premium on fairness in transactions. For his moral integrity and the strict demand that he puts on himself, he is held in high regard by his peers.

Mr Wong believes that while it is true that one's success depends on one's effort, the affirmation and support of society are just as important. Full of gratitude, he understands the principle of giving back to society what one takes from it, regarding it as no more than the basic responsibility of people who are in business. With the support of his family, Mr Wong has given generously over the years. To date, his donation to education infrastructure building in Hong Kong and the mainland has exceeded HK\$1 billion, including subsidising the living expenses of teachers in the mainland's rural regions and building libraries and other educational facilities. The New Great Wall Programme that Mr Wong participated in provides subsidies to financially straitened college students to help them complete their studies free from economic distractions. For his contributions to commerce and the community, the HKSAR Government awarded Mr Wong a Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2016. In 2018, the Guangzhou Municipal Government awarded him with Honorary Citizenship of Guangzhou.

To City University of Hong Kong (CityU), Mr Wong's contribution goes beyond monetary gifts. Despite his busy schedule, he took it upon himself to serve as a Court Member of the University, a Member of the Board of Governors as well as Honorary Patron of the CityU Foundation. In these capacities, he readily offers his valuable opinions on the development of the University. Mr Wong chaired the fundraising committee for the 2018 Annual Dinner of the CityU Foundation, which succeeded in raising an unprecedented amount of over HK\$14 million. In 2013, in appreciation of his vigorous support, the University named one of its theatres the Wong Cheung Lo Hui Yuet Hall in memory of his parents.

In recent years, Mr Wong has actively promoted education concerning the history of Hong Kong, especially that of the Hong Kong-Kowloon Independent Brigade of East River Column Guerillas in Hong Kong. This noteworthy incident in Hong Kong's history is not widely known. Mr Wong's parents and many of his older relatives joined this guerilla force, valiantly fighting in Hong Kong and the Guangdong areas. Not a few of them ended up giving up their youth and even their lives. In order to preserve the memory of this history, Mr Wong and his relatives have donated their ancestral home in Sha Tau Kok for the establishment of a museum of the War of Resistance. He is also planning a number of heritage trails about the War of Resistance in Hong Kong, with the hope that young people can learn about the present through the past and thus broaden their horizons.

A self-made man, Mr Wong Chun-hong has come to the great success that he enjoys today through diligence and insights. Having taken confident steps in the business world for years, he nonetheless maintains the unsullied heart of a child, where he harbours a sense of responsibility to society and history. He takes pleasure in charity work, and contributes unreservedly to the cause of nurturing our next generation. Mr Council Chairman, respectfully, I present to you Mr Wong Chun-hong for the conferment of a Doctor in Social Science, *honoris causa*.