

## **Honorary Fellow Dr Leung Wing-tai**

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Ng Sik-hung*

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Dr Leung Wing-tai is a man of great erudition with a wide range of skills and expertise in several fields. He studied science, theology, the art of cinema-television and communication at five universities in Hong Kong and the US. He is also known for his avant-garde views on the roles of communication theories in this rapidly changing new era. With his excellent understanding of the younger generation, he helps them to orient their lives and develop their talent, inspiring them to aim high. In *Generation 21: Young Spirits of Asia*, a TV series he produced, Dr Leung uses a highly original multi-media approach, and presents very moving, real-life stories that reflect the thoughts and aspirations of young people in six major Asian cities. This Hong Kong-produced TV series has been shown in many countries, winning the Finalist Award at the New York International Film and Television Festival in 1990.

Youth education has been Dr Leung's life-long vocation. He was, for example, a core member of the founding leaders for Breakthrough Limited, a pioneering institution in youth affairs in Hong Kong. Since 1978, Dr Leung has been working full-time with this organisation, which in recent years has expanded its services to China mainland under his leadership.

Dr Leung is an active participant in public affairs and has served as a member of many public bodies, including the Board of Education and its Task Group on Training and Development of School Heads, the Working Group on the Study of the Influence of the Mass Media on Youth of the Commission on Youth and the Assessment Sub-committee of the Quality Education Fund. Currently, he is a member of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, a part-time member of the Central Policy Unit, and the Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism.

He also served as a Council Member of City University of Hong Kong for six years. His term of office came to an end only last year. During this period, he took part in formulating the University's long-term development, strengthened the University's contacts with secondary school heads and the media, promoted the University's policy of placing equal emphasis on teaching and research, and helped facilitate the work of University staff in all aspects of this policy.

Dr Leung cares very much for young people and universities, cherishing great expectations for them. He continues to remind us that young people are humanity's most important asset. "We shall commit all our means to the cultivation of the new generation, and our universities," he says, "are their most important mentor." This heartfelt observation sums up and expands on what he wrote in his book *New Leadership DNA*, which was published in 2002: "What lies ahead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Some people think that it is a graveyard, smelling of death, whilst others believe that it is a lily, exuding life and hope. No one actually knows the answer for certain... Now that we have crossed the divide into the new century, we have to go forward with courage and a spirit of adventure. No matter how many wounds we may have to sustain, and however tired we may be physically or spiritually, we must fulfill the preceding generation's expectations and pray for the next generation, helping them navigate the 21<sup>st</sup> century successfully."

For more than thirty years, Dr Leung has dedicated himself to youth affairs, gaining at first hand a thorough knowledge of young people's virtues and shortcomings, and marvelling at the numerous miracles that have transformed their lives. In *New Leadership DNA*, he identifies 12 essential attributes that young leaders should possess and details how they may impact the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He firmly believes that young people, in tandem with universities in the new era, will be indispensable in fulfilling their common historical mission of making the world a better place.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, in recognition of his many accomplishments in youth affairs and his contributions to the development of the University, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Dr Leung Wing-tai for the conferment of the title of Honorary Fellow.