

Honorary Fellow Dr Joseph Lee Chung-tak

Citation written and delivered by Professor Dennis Wong Sing-wing

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Dr Joseph Lee is a model for Hong Kong entrepreneurs. For many years, he has been enthusiastic about public and social services, and has taken up many public offices in Hong Kong and the mainland. His contributions to philanthropic endeavours and social enterprises are noteworthy, including work that promotes education and the nurturing of young people. Since serving as District Governor for the Rotary International District 3450 in 1989, he has given his time generously to public affairs. Since 2009, he has been Chairman of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, and under his leadership, members of the Committee conscientiously work to promote civic education and articulate the core values of Hong Kong people. For his contributions in these and other related activities, Dr Lee was honoured with the Golden Bauhinia Star last year.

Dr Lee is now Chairman of Wofoo Plastics and Chemicals Group and Wofoo Foundation Limited, and the President of Wofoo Social Enterprises Limited. At various times, he has been Deputy for the HKSAR to the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, a member of the Ningbo Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Hong Kong Affairs Advisor for The State Council, President of the Hong Kong Youth Industrialists Council, President of the Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association, Chairman of the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Consultative Committee on Economic and Trade Co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of The Basic Law of Hong Kong, Chairman of the Hong Kong United Youth Association, and a member of the CityU Council.

Born in Hong Kong, Dr Lee graduated with a bachelor degree in Management from Illinois Institute of Technology in the US in 1972.

Founded in the 1960s by Dr Lee's parents, Wofoo Industrial Company Limited specialised in plastics. In 1973, Dr Lee returned to Hong Kong to expand the family business, dedicated to bringing prosperity to both family and country, and to fostering harmony among the people. He established Wofoo Plastics Limited, working tirelessly to build a brand name that has since won the respect of colleagues in the field and the commendation of his customers. At present, Wofoo is the leading manufacturer of PVC compounds in Asia. Its primary customers include world-famous toy factories and cable manufacturers from Japan and countries in Europe and the Americas.

The success of the Wofoo Group has made Dr Lee all the more committed to his philosophy of "taking from society, giving to society". Beginning in the late 1970s, Dr Lee involved himself in social services, and came to appreciate the satisfaction and joy of serving others. This further inspired him to embark on a new vocation in social services. In the mid-1990s, he launched Wofoo Social Enterprises, where he brought corporate practices to bear on the operation of social services. Wofoo Foundation, established in 1997, also gave prompt donations to areas affected by the tsunami in South Asia, the snow storms in North China, and the earthquakes in Sichuan, Haiti and Qinghai, creating momentum in Hong Kong for the relief work. In view of the mismatch of resources, he advocated the application of corporate management methods for the provision of social services in such a way that limited resources could best be utilised to bring the greatest good to those in need.

Wofoo's core values consist of "responsibility, quality, high efficiency, proactivity, unity and environmental protection". Today, Wofoo Social Enterprises has become a force that works towards the perfection of society, and its services have expanded into areas such as caring for the elderly, development programmes for the young, education and community services.

In addition, among Wofoo's many acts of philanthropy, quite a few have received wide acclaim. For example, Grace Nursing Home established by Wofoo was the first contract home awarded by the Social Welfare

Department in Hong Kong. It serves more than 200 senior citizens and is well-known for its rigorous professionalism and the loving care that goes into its operation. In addition, as Vice-Chairman of the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund Task Force under the Commission of Poverty of the Government, Dr Lee appealed to members of the public to donate unoccupied flats for the use of the underprivileged, and investigated ways to set up a food donation system for people in need. Whether or not the beneficiaries are the elderly, children or the homeless, Dr Lee serves them whole-heartedly, generously giving his money and effort. He calls upon the corporate world to apply its insights and resources in serving the public and building multi-faceted collaborations, with the expectation of benefitting more and more people.

Dr Lee is also supportive of educational endeavours in Hong Kong. He established in Tin Shui Wai a school that comes under the Direct Subsidy Scheme. He initiated leadership development programmes for young people with the “Wofoo Leaders’ Network” and “Wofoo Youth Network” through which students learn ways to serve society and gain an understanding of the world outside Hong Kong. What’s more, from 2008 to 2013, Dr Lee served on the CityU Council, and chaired its Community Relations Committee. Under his leadership, the fundraising efforts of the Committee witnessed remarkable success, and communication between the University and the community was strengthened. His contributions to the rapid development of CityU and the forging of a new image of the University are undeniable.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, with his far-reaching corporate outlook, Dr Joseph Lee always bears in mind the advancement of his motherland and the development of Hong Kong. In so far that he is unsparing in his efforts to repay society in support of education and other philanthropic work, he lives up to his fame as a distinguished member of society and a role model for the young. I earnestly request the University to confer the Honorary Fellowship on Dr Joseph Lee in recognition and appreciation of his accomplishments.