

# **Honorary Fellow Dr Law Hing-chung**

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Dennis Wong Sing-wing*

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Dr Law Hing-chung is a prominent figure in the educational scene in Hong Kong. In the many roles that he has played as an educational researcher, a frontline teacher, a government officer, and a public opinion maker, he stands out as a calm and informed voice on the many debates that have been taking place in the education sector in Hong Kong since the 1990s.

Dr Law was awarded a PhD from the Institute of Education of the University of London in 1996 for his study on measurement, testing and evaluation, having earlier obtained a Diploma in Education and Master of Education from the University of Hong Kong. He has worked as a secondary school teacher, a subject officer at the former Hong Kong Examinations Authority, a Senior Policy Analyst at the New South Wales Department of School Education in Australia, a Principal Curriculum Officer at the Curriculum Development Institute of the former Education Department in Hong Kong, and the Head of Research at the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. He was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Direct Subsidy Scheme School Council and is currently its Honorary External Affairs Secretary. He is also the President of the Hong Kong Senior Education Workers' Association, and a member of the Research and Advocacy Committee of The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong.

To the larger public, Dr Law is perhaps best known as the founding Principal of Pui Kiu College from 2005 to 2010, where he put his carefully considered education ideals into practice. During his tenure, Dr Law succeeded in doing what others had tried in vain to achieve. Against the pervasive emphasis on examinations that sometimes distracts students from the genuine pursuit of knowledge, Dr Law put forward an innovative, diversified and balanced curriculum. In place of examinations, students are

asked to build up a portfolio that reflects their learning experience. They are encouraged to develop in an all-rounded fashion with the morning of the school day given to formal instruction and the afternoon to extra-curricular activities that allow them to explore their interests in an in-depth way. Today, the accomplishments of students of Pui Kiu College are recognised by the many prizes that they win in open competitions, and its graduates are actively recruited by prestigious universities and colleges here and elsewhere. Dr Law's spectacular success with Pui Kiu College attests to the boldness of his vision, his deep concern for the welfare of the younger generation, and his readiness and determination to do what is right.

Naturally, the educational ideal that Dr Law holds dear to his heart makes him a close ally to City University of Hong Kong where he has been a member of the Court and Council and a member of the Community Relations Committee and the Committee of Statues. He is particularly heartened to see the emergence of a curriculum in CityU that reflects the new knowledge structure of the twenty-first century. Students are given multi-discipline exposure with generic skills applicable not only to a single line of work. In this way, they are trained not for short-term employment but a long-term career. He expects CityU to stay on this unique course of development, which will make it a model of emulation among institutions of tertiary education.

With his extensive research anchored firmly in practical experience, Dr Law urges educators to listen closely to younger people. They are not, as it is sometimes thought, aimlessly radical, but rather have to be nurtured and guided with empathy. He also points to the need of the education sector to take seriously the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural mix of Hong Kong. The call is upon us to take advantage of the rich opportunities available and to steer ourselves away from the socially divisive trappings inherent in this delicate situation.

Now in his retirement, Dr Law continues to shape the debates on education by the opinion pieces that he writes and the appearances that he makes in public forums.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, Dr Law Hing-chung's unflagging dedication to education deserves commendation just as his far-reaching vision deserves our attention. I present him to you for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of City University of Hong Kong.