

# Honorary Fellow Ms Shirley Chan Suk-ling

*Citation written and delivered by Professor William Wan Piu*

Chairman of the Council and President:

A market pioneer. A champion of industry. A leader of the business community. Ms Shirley Chan Suk-ling has served Hong Kong with distinction for many years. Currently, she is the Vice-Chairman of YGM Trading Limited, a publicly listed company in Hong Kong that engages in fashion retail and wholesale business, and distributes in more than 200 stores for many world-renowned brands. She is the Director of Yangtzekiang Garment Limited, also a publicly listed company in Hong Kong, founded in 1949.

After studying design in the UK, Ms Chan joined her family's fashion and garment business in the 1970s here in Hong Kong, starting as an entry-level employee and earning her way to a management position. With great foresight and business acumen, Ms Chan took the opportunity to introduce foreign brands into Hong Kong whilst developing her company's own brands, at a time when the industry rarely emphasised branding. This pioneering strategy resulted in huge successes for her company, ushering in a new age for industry in Hong Kong.

Ms Chan's branding strategy requires the courage to innovate and explore new ways of competing in industry, but perhaps more importantly, the commitment and perseverance to invest for a substantial period prior to reaping the fruits of success.

To realise and sustain such success, Ms Chan embraces a "people first" management philosophy. To her, the most important element in managing brands, and indeed managing the company as a whole, is people. The talent in her company constitutes the most precious assets. As such, she places great emphasis on talent development and team work by fostering a culture

of communication, trust, and taking responsibility. This “people first” philosophy serves as a foundation for the continued success of the business as well as earns her much respect within her company.

In addition, Ms Chan is heavily involved in many public services in industry as well as the business sector at large. She currently serves, or has served, as Member of the Committee of the Advisory Group on the Implementation of Fashion Initiatives of HKSAR, the First Vice-President of the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong, Council Member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), Chairman of the Garment Advisory Board of HKTDC, Chairman Emeritus of the Hong Kong Brand Development Council, Member of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Retail Management Association, as well as Committee Member of the Tianjin Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, among many other leadership positions. Through these public services, Ms Chan is one of the biggest champions and promoters of industry and the Hong Kong business community.

Furthermore, Ms Chan strongly believes in the importance of contributing back to society. Over the years, Ms Chan has been a keen supporter of CityU. For example, she served on the CityU Council and its various committees from 2010 to 2016, generously offering valuable advice on CityU’s branding efforts and its extensive campus development activities.

Through her involvement in higher education, Ms Chan actively encourages university students to treasure the many opportunities available nowadays. On top of acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills, students should seize the opportunity to immerse themselves more fully in other valuable aspects of university life in order to broaden their horizons and enrich their experiences. Ms Chan firmly believes that everyone, including university students, can “chip in” their time and efforts to serve.

Finally, Ms Chan deeply cares for the general health and well-being of our younger generation. In 2013, she founded the SADS HK Foundation to raise awareness about Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes, genetic

heart conditions that can cause sudden death in young, apparently healthy, people. Through the SADS Foundation's work and continued outreach to the medical and public community, it is her hope that youngsters with such conditions can receive proper treatment, and that tragedies can be prevented.

Mr Chairman and Mr President, in recognition of her many years of dedicated service and illustrious contributions to the business community of Hong Kong and in particular her outstanding achievement in the fashion and garment industry, as well as her consistently strong support for City University of Hong Kong, it is my pleasure to present Ms Chan who has been conferred the title of Honorary Fellow.