

Honorary Doctor of Social Science

Mr HU Shao Ming Herman

Citation written and delivered by Professor Paul LAM Kwan-sing

Chancellor:

It is our sincere belief at City University of Hong Kong that whenever a distinguished member of society accepts an honorary doctorate from City University of Hong Kong, thus becoming a member of the University's community, we deem it not just the conferring of a certain honour, but more importantly, an acknowledgement that the University has earned his trust and that the recipient identifies himself with City University of Hong Kong, through his willingness to make a contribution to the University or evidence that he has done so in an extraordinary way. On occasions like this, we always express our deep gratitude to the recipient.

And, today, as Mr Hu Shao Ming Herman, Chairman of Ryoden Development Limited and former Council Chairman of the University, is bestowed with an honorary doctorate from City University of Hong Kong, please allow me to add this message – “Welcome home!”

Mr Hu has long been well-known in the political, business and sports circles in Hong Kong. Moreover, he enjoys a special tie with City University of Hong Kong. A few examples show why.

First, Mr Hu served for 14 years on the Council of City University of Hong Kong, as a member and as Chairman, during which time the University launched the Performance-based Pay Review Scheme, a system that inspires and rewards our faculty and staff to achieve excellence in research and professional education.

Second, the Community College of City University (CCCU) entered an alliance with the University of Wollongong, Australia, making it possible for CCCU to gradually upgrade its status to that of a private university, building a solid foundation for a long-term development of CCCU.

More significantly, City University of Hong Kong established Asia's first ever school of veterinary medicine of world-class standard, which will help promote the development of veterinary medicine in Hong Kong, Asia and worldwide.

Not only was Mr Hu the first donor to support the school, he has championed the project in many other ways. To help the public better understand the University's mission and vision, Mr Hu elaborated on the importance of this initiative on various occasions. For instance, in 2013, as a Hong Kong Deputy to the 12th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (NPCPRC), he submitted four proposals for promoting education for the nation, one of which was establishing a school of veterinary medicine at City University of Hong Kong.

Mr Hu's devotion to education stems from a familial tradition. Not only was his father, Dr Hu Fa-kuang, an advocate for education, his ancestors were educators for generations. They set up Utopia University, also known as Da Tung University in Chinese, the first private university in Shanghai in the early 20th century, as well as Hu Public School and several primary and secondary schools in Mr Hu's hometown, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province.

Such dedication flows in Mr Hu's blood. Aware of the lack of natural resources in Hong Kong, Mr Hu believes the surest way for it to stay on the forefront in this globalising world is to foster young talent. He has set up Ryoden Scholarships or Mr Herman Hu Scholarships at several local universities to help finance students who excel in their studies and other aspects. In addition, he was invited to join the Board of Education and has offered advice and suggestions to the government on issues of education.

Influenced by his father, Mr Hu works hard for the public good. In addition to making donations, he serves the community by doing what he loves and is good at. A lover of sports like his father, Mr Hu has set up special scholarships in the hope that the public will come to accept sports and physical education as a respectable pursuit. For that purpose, he served as inaugural Chairman of the Major Sports Events Committee from 2003 to 2010, and as a Member of Hong Kong Sports Commission from 2005 to 2014. Currently, he is Vice-President of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, President of the Hong Kong Veterans' Tennis Association, and

Honorary Life Vice-President of the Asian Tennis Federation. He is also Honorary President of Hong Kong Cycling Association and Honorary Patron of Hong Kong Tennis Association.

In both business and public service fields, Mr Hu has gained rich experience in leadership. For three decades, while running and expanding his company, Mr Hu has been active in public service in Hong Kong, mainland China and abroad. He has been elected to various public positions, among them, as a Member of the Election Committee of Hong Kong in 2001, 2006 and 2011; and a Hong Kong Deputy to the 12th and 13th NPCPRC. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace by Hong Kong Government in 2000 and was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star and Silver Bauhinia Star in 2011 and 2017, respectively.

Madam Chancellor, Mr Hu Shao Ming Herman has often referred to himself as an engineer who is trained to find solutions to problems. Given his training and acting upon the ideal of “Giving back to society what comes from it”, Mr Hu has distinguished himself in business and public service, serving as a role model for all staff and students. Having greatly benefited from having Mr Hu as its helmsman, City University of Hong Kong today is overjoyed to see him “back home again”. Madam Chancellor, I request City University of Hong Kong to award Mr Hu Shao Ming Herman a Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.