

Honorary Fellow

Mr Gabriel Yu Chi-ming

Citation written and delivered by Professor Zhang Longxi

Pro-Chancellor, Deputy Chairman of the Council and President:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Mr Gabriel Yu Chi-ming, a business leader with a reputation for innovative entrepreneurship and a gentleman with passion for the preservation of Chinese culture and its continuing vitality. Mr Yu was educated in Hong Kong with a background in electrical engineering and business management. He has a wealth of experience in electronics engineering, investment banking, import and export businesses, computer hardware distribution, online book retailing, electronic publishing, educational database software, and several other areas within the IT field. In the early 1980s, having worked previously as a design engineer for General Electric in Hong Kong, and as a senior manager in Bank of America and HSBC, Mr Yu started his own business and successfully set up several companies in the early 1980s, covering a wide range of business and industries, including electronics, silk garment export and computer technology. Since 1995, he has concentrated on IT technology and software development, with the conviction that Hong Kong and mainland China must develop IT technology and software industries of their own in order to promote the growth of the local economy and education development.

Mr Yu is the founder and Chairman of the iTVentures Group of Companies and Italade Technology Holdings Ltd. The dozen or so companies he has started or co-founded and the many other business initiatives he has taken in his professional career all demonstrate the spirit of an innovative entrepreneur and the clear foresight of a business leader. He has made contributions not only in Hong Kong and mainland China, but has succeeded in taking two companies to IPO at NASDAQ, and helped a high-tech manufacturing company he co-founded become one of the top 100 companies in Thailand. In this regard, Mr Yu exemplifies imaginative vision, creativity, energy and persistence in pursuing his goals, all of which are typical features of the best talent in

Hong Kong. It is such features and qualities that have made Hong Kong the great international city it is today.

Mr Yu has assumed many advisory and consultant positions in public and professional services and has made valuable contributions to the vibrant life of Hong Kong and beyond. He has served on the HKSAR Government's Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Sub-Committee on IT in Education of the Education Commission, and the Media and Communications Services Advisory Committee of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, just to mention a few. He is a director of public policy think-tank foundation, The 2022 Foundation Ltd, Director of the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture, Executive Director of China Economic Research Foundation, and an International Advisor to several high-tech and IT programmes in the US. At City University of Hong Kong, Mr Yu is an Adjunct Professor and also a member of the Court.

For many of us scholars, Mr Yu is particularly well-known for setting up Digital Heritage Publishing Ltd in 1997, which is responsible for digitising the monumental Siku Quanshu, or the Four Treasuries of Complete Collection of Chinese Books. The original collection was accomplished in the eighteenth century during the reign of Emperor Qianlong, an imperial operation that had 360 literati-scholars working on it and nearly 4,000 scribes as copyists. It is the biggest collection of books in Chinese history with over 36,000 volumes, amounting to more than 700 million Chinese characters, comprising the most important works since antiquity. To scan and digitise all these books and make the texts searchable is a mammoth undertaking, but it is also a tremendous step towards not only the preservation of Chinese book culture, but also its contemporary use and influence. The merging of digital technology and traditional Chinese culture best represents Mr Yu's interests, into which he has invested more than HK\$50 million without the expectation of a profit. In fact, he considers this as a donation rather than an investment, a service to society and the scholarly community, and a contribution to the study of Chinese culture and tradition.

A quiet and unassuming man, Mr Gabriel Yu is both knowledgeable in IT and highly cultured. He has been very supportive of City University of Hong

Kong, particularly in the effort to promote traditional Chinese culture and to offer multiple scholarships to mainland Chinese students for many years. In recognition of Mr Yu's many accomplishments and contributions to the development of the University, Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Deputy Chairman of the Council and Mr President, I now present to you Mr Gabriel Yu Chi-ming for conferment of the title of Honorary Fellow.