

Honorary Fellow

Mr John Lee Luen-wai

Citation written and delivered by Dr Maria Cheng Po-suen

Pro-Chancellor, Council Chairman and President:

Many are the social dignitaries who take part in public service in Hong Kong, but perhaps the only person who has been hailed by the media as the “King of Public Service” is Mr John Lee Luen-wai, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Lippo Limited. Besides his work at Lippo, Mr Lee is an executive director of Lippo China Resources Limited and Hongkong Chinese Limited, and Chairman of the Macau Chinese Bank Limited. He also serves as a director or an independent non-executive director in many companies both in Hong Kong and mainland China, including as an independent non-executive director of the New World Development Company Limited and New World China Land Limited.

Mr Lee is a qualified accountant by profession, and a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In 1978, Mr Lee became the first locally trained and qualified partner of Price Waterhouse, and had served as a partner for 12 years. He has extensive experience in corporate finance and capital markets.

For many years, Mr Lee has been contributing to the society by offering his professional expertise. Since the 1980s, Mr Lee has received the full support of his wife. With her caring for and dedication to family, Mr Lee is thus able to realise his active and extensive commitment to community and public services without concern. For more than 20 years, he has served as a member or chairman of 13 government boards and communities in a variety of areas, covering medical care, education, law, finance, accountancy, taxation, culture and entertainment, broadcasting, anti-corruption work and food and environmental hygiene. Mr Lee embraces equity and justice. He communicates candidly and pragmatically with conviction of righteousness. With his remarkable accomplishments, he was awarded the Justice of Peace of the HKSAR in 2003.

Mr Lee's association with City University of Hong Kong is particularly strong. Not only is his daughter a graduate of the School of Law of the University, he was also a member of the University Council from 1998 to 2007. In the early phase of the University, Mr Lee advocated the important strategy of putting development before governance, while dedicatedly participating and driving forward many development programmes. By the end of 2007, Mr Lee had taken part in the work of nine different committees of the Council, including the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Strategic Development Committee, Search Committee for President, Estates and Development Committee, Staffing and Conditions of Service Committee, Review Committee on University Governance and Management, and Honorary Awards Committee. He was, furthermore, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Estates and Development Committee. Regarding the University's future direction, Mr Lee advises to strengthen university governance and pay close attention to worldwide trends. He is particularly in favour of enhancing the cohesiveness of the alumni association to bring together the talents nurtured by the University.

Mr Lee is also enthusiastic about hospital management. Deeply conscious of the great impact that contagious diseases, food safety, and the aging of the population have on community, he is resolved to serving the public by employing his professional knowledge to improve the management of public hospitals. Mr Lee is currently a member of the Hospital Authority, and Chairman of both its Finance Committee and Main Tender Board. He is a trustee of the Hospital Authority Provident Fund Scheme and Chairman of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Governing Committee.

Mr Lee's other past and current involvements in public service include his role on the Non-local Higher and Professional Education Appeal Board, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel, the Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene, the Appeal Board on Closure Orders (Immediate Health Hazard), the Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance), the Broadcasting Authority, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee of Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Financial Matters Advisory Group of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the Council of Diocesan Boys' School and others.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Council Chairman and Mr President, for many years, Mr John Lee has made significant contributions to the community with his tireless involvement in a variety of community and public services. His participation with City University of Hong Kong is extremely positive and appreciative. With his full and dedicated support, various development strategies and policies of the University have been smoothly and successfully implemented. May I present to you Mr John Lee Luen-wai for the award of an Honorary Fellow of the University.