

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Dr Yukio HATOYAMA

Citation written and delivered by Professor Nozer Darabsha SINGPURWALLA

Pro-Chancellor:

It is my great honour to present to you Dr Yukio Hatoyama, who, as a visionary politician and an academician with creative insights, has contributed to the advancement of peace in Asia and the world and the development of human knowledge.

Dr Hatoyama hails from an illustrious family with a long history that has left an indelible imprint on the political, educational and corporate world in Japan. His great-grandfather, Kazuo Hatoyama, was the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Diet of Japan during the Meiji era. His grandfather, Ichiro Hatoyama, served as Prime Minister and was a founder and the first President of the Liberal Democratic Party, who with his deft diplomatic skill, paved the way for Japan's membership to the United Nations. His father, Ichiro Hatoyama, was Foreign Minister for a time. On the maternal side of the family, the Hatoyamas boast a long line of entrepreneurs and educators, including a founder of the Bridgestone Corporation and two co-founders of institutions of higher education, one of Waseda University and the other Kyoritsu Women's University.

Yet, this brief account of Dr Hatoyama's unimpeachable pedigree does not begin to capture the far-reaching impact that he has made on his own, for he is, in the word of a tribute to him printed in *Time* magazine in 2010, a "leader of a revolution". Long a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, he broke ranks in 1993 to co-form the New Party Sakigake. In 1996, he then started the newly-formed Democratic Party of Japan, which, in 2009, ended the former's hold on political power of more than 50 years. He himself assumed the Prime Ministership in the same year, ushering in a programme of wide-ranging reforms. Domestically, his administration will be remembered for addressing the needs of those who are less fortunate, including such measures as the introduction of a state subsidy for families with young children, the abolition of tuition fees for public high schools, and other similar support programmes for rice

farmers, low-income workers, small and medium-sized businesses, and single-mother households. During his office, he also greatly increased social spending on childcare, nursing care, medical care, public housing, social security and education. The list goes on.

Internationally, his Prime Ministership signaled a shift in Japan's foreign policy towards a more Asia-oriented focus. In the "era of multipolarity" that he envisions, there should be a new configuration of influence in world politics where international affairs are no longer determined by a powerful few, and global economic interests should not take precedence to matters relating to human lives and safety, such as agriculture, the environment and medicine. Accordingly, he emphasises the importance of the East Asian community just as he demands a more active international role for Japan in such global issues as climate change and nuclear disarmament. With great care and patience, he seeks to balance the conflicting claims between local independence and global coexistence.

In the volatile atmosphere that often surrounds Japan's relationships with other Asian countries, any assertion on the part of Japan of its role in international affairs is bound to meet with suspicion. Dr Hatoyama demonstrates that he has taken to heart the lessons of the history of the previous century when he goes out of his way to assure his Asian neighbours of his peaceful intentions, sometimes at the expense of his own popularity domestically. Dr Hatoyama thus represents a moderating voice in the sound and fury of Asian political polemics, and the security of the region is on more steady grounds because of it.

Less well-known, but no less significant, is Dr Hatoyama's scholarship, and his contributions to engineering and applied mathematics. After graduating from the University of Tokyo he proceeded to Stanford University for his doctoral studies in Operations research, and received his PhD therein. Subsequent to that he was an academic at Senshu University, where in addition to the normal regimen of teaching and mentoring, he was an active researcher specialising in the arcane topic of discrete time, discrete state, Markovian Decision Theory, and linking this theory with the Theory of Queues to obtain sufficient conditions for an optimal control limit policy. For his contributions to this branch of the sciences, Dr Hatoyama can most appropriately be certified as an Applied Probabilist.

For all these enviable accomplishments, Dr Hatoyama has an unassuming and relaxed disposition. This is well reflected in his interactions and dealings with people from all walks of life. His less-than-formal and charming mannerisms set him apart from many in public life, and mark him as a gracious persona with whom one can aspire to an evening of spirited and stimulating discourse.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Dr Yukio Hatoyama has exercised great wisdom as a politician whose benefits are felt beyond Japan. His academic and scholarly contributions have advanced our understanding of the risks that modern complex systems pose, and of ways of optimally mitigating these risks by judicious control policies. I do not say this lightly, Mr Pro-Chancellor, because I am well aware of his dissertation work and his published papers. They are of a high technical calibre. I am greatly honoured to present to you Dr Yukio Hatoyama for the conferment of the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws.