

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation





Hung Hon Cheung, George


Mr Hung Hon Cheung, George is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Born in the city of Guangzhou in 1934, he migrated to Hong Kong in 1937. Thereafter he travelled frequently between the two cities to avoid the atrocities of the Second World War, pursuing his primary education in various local schools. At Middle 2 he enrolled at Pui Ying Middle School in Hong Kong, where he stayed until his secondary schooling was completed. Mr Hung was among the first batch of candidates to sit the Chinese Middle School Certificate Examination. He was admitted into Chung Chi College in 1952 and graduated in 1956.

During his time at Chung Chi, Mr Hung studied Business Administration as his major subject and Economics as his minor. Upon graduation he joined the Carrier Air Conditioning Company, where in 1970 his hard work and outstanding performance earned him the opportunity to pursue advanced studies in air-conditioning engineering in the United States. He continued to scale new heights in his career after returning to Hong Kong, both in professional undertakings and in business management. In 1979 he founded System Engineering Limited. His company has since grown and developed to become an enterprise of excellent repute, having stood the trial of numerous recessions and crises as well as social unrest. Mr Hung is now a Life Member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and the Association of Energy Engineers of the United States, and also a Member of America Management Association.

Mr Hung is a great philanthropist with a genuine concern for the common good, and is in particular a staunch supporter of education. He is convinced that the education of the young and the development of youthful talents are lifelong enterprises, and has whole-heartedly devoted all his free time to the furtherance of the cause. His support covers the full range of educational organisations, from pre-school institutions to tertiary institutions. He is the Manager of North Point Methodist Church Nursery, North Point Methodist Church Kindergarten, North Point Methodist Primary School, Wesley College, the Methodist Lee Wai Lee College, Pui Ying College and Pui Ying Secondary School, as well as an honorary advisor to the Pui Ying Alumni Association Hong Kong. Since 2001 he has been a member of the Curriculum Development Council of the Hong Kong Government. This is a public office of major importance as it is the Council's business to promote curriculum reform and to facilitate the transformation of Hong Kong society to a knowledge-based economy. The Council also assists young people in cultivating the right attitude towards life, in coping with the challenges of the time, and in meeting the demands of society. Given his great learning and high morals, Mr Hung is eminently suited to the appointment.

Mr Hung was a member of the second graduating class at Chung Chi College, and over the years he has shown great love for his alma mater. During the early days of the College, classes were held at the hall of St John's Cathedral and St Paul's Co-educational College, and later at





leased premises at 147 Caine Road and at the Bishop Hoare Memorial Building. Students were required to move from one place to another between classes, up and down Caine Road, and that was an arduous undertaking. The Chung Chi campus today, of course, is very different, as it stands proud, magnificent and well equipped, commanding a scenic view of both Ma On Shan and Tolo Harbour. During its long road from penury to magnificence and from obscurity to fame, Mr Hung has always stood by the College, and his great interest in its affairs actually began in his student days. He was elected to the College Board of Trustees as early as 1973, became its Treasurer in 1987, and has been Chairman since 1993. All these years he journeyed with the College as it went from strength to strength, lending his helping hand wherever he could to improve facilities, build the College's image, promote the Chung Chi spirit and enhance its academic status. In these he has worked closely with the College Head, teachers and students. Indeed, Mr Hung's relationship with the College, which has lasted for close to half a century, is amazing, and very touching too.

Since its early days Chung Chi College has upheld the principles of "Sublime is Love for All, Fundamental is Nurture of Talent". It has also followed the Christian teachings of justice, peace and charity. These principles have provided for a holistic education in which knowledge and ethics are equally emphasized. In an environment of academic freedom, students have learnt to develop a deep understanding of both traditional and modern world orders, as well as Chinese and western cultures. In recent years the College has directed much energy and many resources towards the provision of more balanced and multifarious opportunities for education, to which end special efforts have been made to expand and enhance its liaison with Mainland and overseas institutions. Student activities that serve this purpose include student visitor programmes, language enhancement programmes, leadership training programmes, information technology training programmes, quality activity award programmes, outward bound training programmes and mentor programmes. All these activities have met with the enthusiastic support of Mr Hung. At this point in time Chung Chi is actively engaged in a series of events marking its 50th anniversary, and Mr Hung, as the Chairman of the College Board of Trustees, took personal command of the celebration activities despite his already heavy schedule. This is a fact that amply demonstrates his selfless devotion to his alma mater.

Mr Hung also plays an active role in church work, in the promotion of medical services, and in the furtherance of economic activities. Since the 1970s he has been a member of the North Point Methodist Church Council and has been Vice-Chairman since 1999. In 1991 he was appointed to the Hospital Governing Committee for the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital and was on the Hospital Governing Committee for the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital from 1993 to 1997. From 1999 he has been on the management committee of the United Christian Nethersole Community Health Service. Mr Hung has been a member of the Rotary Club – Hong Kong Island West since 1978, and was President from 1993 to 1994. He was Chairman of the Chung Chi College Alumni Association from 1976 to 1978, and Chairman of the Chinese Christian Universities Alumni Association of Hong Kong from 1980 to 1981.




Although Mr Hung is heavily committed to both business and public service, he spares no effort in advancing his knowledge through study and research, especially in the field of energy-saving engineering devices. The sight of delivery workers peddling hard on conventional bicycles prompted him to design a new type of bicycle that would require far less energy to propel. In Mr Hung's invention, the two pedals when pushed down by the rider's feet cause the seat to rise correspondingly. And when the rider, while in a standing posture, presses down on the seat with his own weight, the pedals are elevated. The vehicle proceeds with the energy created by the rider sitting and rising, making it a labour-saving device that is also much easier to balance. This innovative concept brought forth the RISIGO (rise-sit-go), a vehicle for transport as well as a device for physical exercise. After a series of trial tests and fine-tuning, Mr Hung was invited to present RISIGO at the Ninth Annual World-wide Inventors Expo in New York City in 1985, where it astonished the world and was awarded a gold medal, and became the focus of media attention. Mr Hung was cited in the newspapers as a bright light among the Chinese, and his fame as an inventor soon spread far and wide. Mr Hung's invention again appeared by invitation at the International Inventors Expo 1991 in New York City, where it garnered the overall first prize among patent items. At the moment RISIGO has been patented in over 40 countries. China is the undisputed nation of the bicycle, and the demand for environmental friendly exercisers in advanced countries is also on the rise. We can thus expect Mr Hung's ingenious creation to be adapted for consumer usage in due course, to be widely accepted in the market.

Mr Hung was the first Hong Kong citizen to have participated and achieved great honours in an international inventors expo. When enquired about his experience, Mr Hung indicated that an inventor's road from idea to reality and concept to product would always be long, uneven, and full of hurdles. So one who desires success would do well to be determined and resolved, and to have the will power to overcome all odds and difficulties.

Mr Hung is a gentleman of unassuming demeanour and a kind disposition. He abides by the Christian teaching that it is more blessed to give than to receive, which is a principle he practises to the full, in his service to the alma mater and to the community at large. Mr Hung believes that in the course of one's life one may gain control of matters by not taking the first move, and by remaining composed in the midst of strife and turmoil. He is convinced that "having spent some time in a chamber adorned with fragrant flowers, one is no longer sensitive to the sweet scent", and hence takes success and failure with the same calmness of mind. To Mr Hung, success is of course something to rejoice in, but failure is not a situation that would scare him. His advice is that one should always take a cautiously optimistic outlook on life, and frequently practise introspection. One should also be bold in shouldering responsibilities and abstain from attributing faults to others. Mr Hung agrees that "maggots appear only after the substance has gone into decay", and his conviction is that, whether in prosperous or adverse circumstances, one must always strive to the best of one's ability. In this way, a person will certainly be able to see life optimistically and capitalize on opportunities that come up with any new situation.

Mr Hung grew up in a learned family, with his grandfather being an expert in photography and both his parents being artists. Mr Hung is very fond of music and, when a young man, was



the conductor of the YMCA Harmonica Orchestra. He derives great pleasure from the aesthetic and spiritual experience that is inherent in the enjoyment of classical music. Mr Hung has a wide range of interests which enable him to broaden his mental horizons, and his company is always a pleasure much enjoyed by his friends.

Mr George Hung is an immensely successful engineer and an inventor of international renown. His genius and knowledge have brought him remarkable achievements in business both in Hong Kong and abroad. As a very senior alumnus of the Chinese University, he has not only sat on the Chung Chi Board of Trustees but has also been a member of the University Council since 1993. Over the decades he has greatly supported the University with his time and resources. Mr Vice-Chancellor, in consideration of his contribution to Hong Kong and the Chinese community at large, I present Mr Hung Hon Cheung, George for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.