

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FORTY-SECOND CONGREGATION

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

*A Citation*

**Professor Zhou Guangzhao**

Professor Zhou Guangzhao is a well-known public figure in China and overseas. A prominent physicist respected all over the world, Professor Zhou specializes in elementary particles, the physics of explosions and radiational fluidic dynamics, and boasts a publication record of over one hundred significant articles. He is the President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with a gargantuan staff of over ninety thousand. In recent years, he has devoted a great deal of his energy to a series of reforms, and mapped out a bright future for the institution. Although Professor Zhou has been able to keep a perfect balance between scholarship and administrative work, his double career did not exactly come as planned. Professor Zhou believes that the road one travels is often determined by a number of unforeseen factors but that the secret of success lies in trying one's best.

Forty-five years ago, before Professor Zhou was admitted to Qinghua University, he had barely finished the fifth year of his secondary education because of the war. As a result, he had not had any physics, but he was able to finish the reading for the entire course within a short space of four months and got himself accepted by the nation's most outstanding tertiary institution in science and technology. Upon his graduation, Professor Zhou went on to Russia for further studies. The period between 1957 and 1960 can be said to be his golden period, when he was able to forge ahead with his research in physics, and, at the same time, to pick up skiing, a hobby he still relishes today. In 1960 Professor Zhou was unexpectedly forced to interrupt his personal research when he was recalled to China, where he participated successfully in the national defence project, a fact known to all of us. And since the seventies, Professor Zhou has become increasingly involved in the administration of the top research academy of the nation. In his busy schedule, skiing, or, for that matter, his other favorite sport of swimming, has become a luxury. From what I know, Professor Zhou nowadays manages at best to take a walk occasionally for relaxation. At times, pacing in his office seems to have become the only way of keeping himself physically fit.

As President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Zhou is particularly concerned about how results of scientific and technological research can be put to the service of the community. To that end, the Academy has been keeping a good balance between high-caliber research and profitable high technology industry. At first sight, the two enterprises do not seem to go together and implementing them at the same time might seem to be an impossible task.

Professor Zhou first called for the dismantling of the traditional closed system in favour of some sort of open-door policy. More than eighty laboratories have since been made available to scientists in and out of China who wish to come and conduct individual or collaborative research. An increasing number of the Academy's staff have also been abroad for short visits. Greater emphasis has also been placed on interdisciplinary research, one good example being collaborations between the electronic and optical sciences.

To further improve coordination between academia and industry, Professor Zhou has also arranged to have approximately ten percent of his work force go out of the Academy to start their own enterprises or to cooperate with industry. Some of these notable enterprises include computer firms in the Zhong-guan Cun District in Beijing, the science park at Shenzhen, agricultural farms in Hainan, and, last but not least, Xi-wang computer company here in Hong Kong. Good progress has been made so far.

Of course, all this has not been at the expense of the Academy's pure research. Among some of its well-known projects are genetic research on fish, electronic colliders and superconductivity. Their scientific values apart, these projects have great potential for commercial applications as well.

In almost all disciplines, theory and its application are often incompatible, but in pure science it is particularly important that they complement each other, for the future well-being of mankind often depends on a successful partnership of the two. Professor Zhou with his "army" of scientists is devoted precisely to the realisation of this end and his contributions to China cannot be overrated.

Mr Chancellor, Professor Zhou is an outstanding scholar in his own right. He has been made a fellow of six scientific bodies overseas, including Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Italy, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A., Foreign Member of the Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., Foreign Member of the Academy of Science of Czechoslovakia, Honorary Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Science, and Chairman of the Pacific Science Association. In recent years, Professor Zhou has particularly committed himself to putting technology to use for the benefit of the community and to promoting academic exchanges between China and the rest of the world. For his achievement and contributions, may I ask Your Excellency to confer upon Professor Zhou Guangzhao the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

24th October, 1991