

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGREGATION

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

*A Citation*

**Dr Fang Sin-yang, Harry, CBE, MBBS, MCh(Orth), LLD(Hon),  
FRCSE, FACS, FRACS, JP**

Dr Harry Fang Sin-yang, I trust, is a very happy man. It is said helping others is a source of happiness and this eminent orthopaedic surgeon has dedicated himself to helping the handicapped with his scalpel and with community leadership.

Born in 1923 in Nanjing, China, Dr Fang came to Hong Kong to study at King's College in 1937 and entered the University of Hong Kong at the age of 17. During World War II, he served in the field ambulance core in defense of Hong Kong and for his valour he was awarded the Defense Medal after the War (1948). In 1949, he received a MBBS degree from the University of Hong Kong and began his career as an assistant lecturer of general surgery. Three years later, a Sino-British Fellowship Trust Scholarship took him to the University of Liverpool where he wrote a dissertation on the Cervical-spine and earned a MCh(Orth) degree. He returned to the University of Hong Kong in 1956 as a Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery. In 1958, he joined the Hong Kong Government as an Orthopaedic Specialist and later served several hospitals as consultant orthopaedic surgeon. By 1964, he had become a leader in the medical community. He was President of the British Medical Association Hong Kong Branch (1964-65) and President of the Hong Kong Medical Association (1966-67).

Since the late 1960's, Dr Fang has devoted himself to improving rehabilitation services for people with physical and mental handicaps. He has been instrumental in the rapid expansion of such services in sports and recreation and other new areas. His appointment to Hong Kong's Legislative Council (1974-85) and Executive Council (1978-83) was no doubt the happiest of news for the disabled.

During his thirty years of public service, Dr Fang has served on numerous committees at home and abroad. He was President of Rehabilitation International from 1980 to 1984. From 1979 to 1985, he served this University as a member of its Council. For over ten years, he has been the Chairman of two key government committees, namely, the Medical Development Advisory Committee and the Rehabilitation Development Coordinating Committee. He is also a Steward of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club and Honorary President of the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped, among others.

Indeed, Hong Kong is a healthier and happier community because of Dr Fang's tireless efforts and able leadership. He has shown us that, in one way or another, we are all handicapped, but, with just a little help, most of us can lead normal and productive lives. To help others is really to help ourselves. In recognition of his services to medical education and his compassion as a social worker par excellence, his Alma Mater honoured him with a Doctor of Laws degree in 1977. In 1981, he was nominated Man of the Year in the United Kingdom and named Citizen of the Year in Hong Kong. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1964 and the Queen bestowed upon him the OBE in 1966 and the CBE in 1985.

For his achievements as an eminent surgeon and his significant contribution to rehabilitation services in Hong Kong and beyond, I present, Mr Chancellor, Dr Harry Fang Sin-yang for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

October 12, 1989