

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

TWENTIETH CONGREGATION

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

A Citation

Dr. the Honorable SZETO Wai, CBE, CEng, FICE, FIStructE, FASCE, MIMechE, FIPHE, MConsE, FHKIE, DSc(Hon)

Dr. the Hon. SZETO Wai is a man whose career defies conventional description, for he is a civil engineer, a mechanical engineer, a structural engineer as well as a public health engineer. In Dr. SZETO four separate engineering careers have all rolled into one. In recent years, he is also increasingly being referred to as an architect. The truth about Dr. SZETO is that he is one of those rare people who show an ability to succeed in many directions from an early age and whose subsequent careers more than fulfil their early promise. For such distinguished people, narrow professional lines do not apply.

Shortly after he arrived in Hong Kong in 1948, Dr. SZETO began to run a highly successful consulting practice and quickly established himself as a leading civil and structural engineer. Hard work, professional expertise and creative energy combined to elevate Dr. SZETO to a position of eminence in the engineering and architectural world. In 1960 he became the President of the Hong Kong Society of Architects. Another year later, he was elected Chairman of the Hong Kong Joint Group of Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Institution of Electrical Engineers. In 1965 he became an unofficial member of the Legislative Council and subsequently a member of the Executive Council as well.

To Dr. SZETO the University in particular is in great debt. As the University's Architect since its inception in 1963, he is the brain behind our Master Development Plan. The beautifully landscaped campus, the appropriately spaced buildings and the magnificent Science Centre in front of which the Congregation is taking place today owe a great deal to the professional and artistic talent of Dr. SZETO.

For his long and inspiring association with The Chinese University as much as for his invaluable contribution to the engineering and architectural professions, I now ask you, Mr. Chancellor, to confer on Dr. SZETO Wai the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

November 30, 1978