

A Citation

LEE QUO-WEI, O.B.E., J.P.

All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than one single selfless service to mankind. This University is in the happy position of being closely associated with people who have rendered innumerable selfless services to society. One of them is our honorary graduand Lee Quo-wei.

As a successful banker, he is one of the Managing Directors and the General Manager of the Hang Seng Bank Ltd. and also serves on the boards of a number of companies, which engage in a wide range of other businesses.

He has also a brilliant record of public service. It includes his past participation in nine different boards and committees as member, chairman or director. At present, he is a member of the Legislative Council and the president or member of a dozen boards and committees, which cover a wide variety of fields, such as finance, public works, tenancy, trust fund, health, export credit insurance, etc. All these public duties impose very heavy demands on his time.

Hong Kong has not always known economic prosperity. In the 1950's when our population was three million, almost one half of it was beyond our power to support it adequately. But, thanks to the rapid industrial and trade expansion in the last decade, today, with a population of over four million, we have the second highest per capita GNP in Asia. We owe this gigantic economic growth to the diligence of the working masses and Government's policy of free trade and free enterprise. We owe it also to the initiative, ingenuity and entrepreneurship of our leading business people, of whom our honorary graduand is an outstanding example.

In addition to his contribution to the economic progress of Hong Kong, the Hon. Lee Quo-wei has also devoted considerable time to promoting higher education. For many years he has been a member of the Council of this University and the Court of Hong Kong University. Since the establishment of this University in 1963, he has served as its Treasurer and has played an important part in formulating its financial policy. He is also a member of the Universities Joint Salaries Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Joint Universities Computer Centre. Recently he has become a member of Board of Governors and the Treasurer of the newly established Hong Kong Polytechnic.

Mr. Lee's dedication to the advancement of education is not unrelated to his sustained endeavours to promote the economic growth and public welfare of our community. For he has strong convictions that the viability of our economy depends on the competitiveness of our manufactured goods in the world market, which in turn depends on the development of the precious resource in our possession: the human resource. He believes that this resource must be developed and improved through education, particularly technical education.

In recognition of his contributions to the economic prosperity of Hong Kong and its higher education, this University recommends, Mr. Chancellor, that Your Excellency confer on this gentleman the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.