Citation for

CHIEN-SHIUNG WU, D.Sc.

The charming lady who is being honoured on this occasion is reputed as the world's foremost female experimental physicist. Among many other scientific contributions, she has, through experimental demonstration, disproved the law of the conservation of parity, which for long had been accepted as a fundamental law of nature. Thus, Dr. Wu has made one of the greatest contributions to the knowledge of the universe.

Professor Wu was the first woman to be honoured with a major award by the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A., of which she is a distinguished member. Several prominent academic institutions, including Yale and Princeton, have conferred honorary degrees upon her. She was also the first woman to receive the Research Corporation Award of the U.S.A. and honoured as the Woman of the Year (1962) by the American Association of University Women.

Dr. Wu received her early education in China, and took the degree of Bachelor of Science at the National Central University in 1936. She then entered the University of California for graduate work, where she obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1940. She has a rich teaching career, and taught at Smith College and Princeton University. She joined the scientific research staff of the Division of War Research at Columbia University in 1944, and became associate professor of physics in 1952 and a full professor in 1959. She has so far produced about 100 research papers published in leading academic journals.

Professor Wu has dedicated her career primarily to the study of nuclear forces and structure. For a long time, the law of the conservation of parity was accepted in physics that in nature there was no intrinsic difference between right and left. This was challenged by Dr. Wu's close associates, Dr. Tsung-dao Lee and Dr. Chen-ning Yang. Through the experimental proof by Professor Wu, this law was disproved, thus opening up new horizons of thinking about the basic physical structure of the universe and making an unprecedented advance in both the theoretical and experimental study of nuclear physics. By disproving the law of the conservation of parity, she also effectively reaffirmed intellectual parity between women and men.

Dr. Wu is a member of the Advisory Board on Natural Sciences of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has been generous in her advice and services. In that capacity, she has greatly contributed towards the development of the academic programme at this University.

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In recognition of her brilliant achievements in science and lasting contribution to our academic development, it is with the greatest pleasure that I present to you, Mr. Chancellor, Chien-shiung Wu as the first woman scholar for conferment by our University of the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.