

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### Dr YEUNG Ming Biu

Time management is perhaps the most important skill in a person's life. Our time management is helped by the watch on our wrist. Dr Yeung Ming Biu knows wrist-watches from inside out. He also knows how to make the best use of his time, for business development, taking care of his body, paying back to society and to groom the youth.

Dr Yeung Ming Biu was from Heshan, Guangdong. He is a captain of the watch industry, a household name in the business sector and a good friend of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. For many years, Dr Yeung has cared for and supported the Chinese University in establishing scholarships and grants. His enthusiasm and many contributions have substantially enhanced the sport activities and facilities on CUHK campus.

Dr Yeung was born in Guangdong and came to Hong Kong at the age of 14 with his mother. His father passed away early and the family was in dire condition. He had to quit school after Primary Five and worked to help with making ends meet. In 1951 he worked as an apprentice in a watch seller and started a lifelong career in the watch industry in Hong Kong. Because he was perseverant, hardworking and dependable, he soon won the trust of his employer and was promoted to "buyer" in a few years' time. In 1958, at the age of 21, Dr Yeung founded his own company with accumulated experience and capital, specializing in second-hand watches and clocks. Three years later, in 1961, Dr Yeung took another bold step forward and opened in Central what eventually became the famous Oriental Watch Company. The Oriental Watch Holdings Limited grew and prospered and, in 1973, acquired La Suisse Watch Company and moved into the highend market. Its business mushroomed in Hong Kong and Macau. Its market leadership was affirmed in 1993 when it was listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It ventured into China in 2000, establishing a stronghold in Shanghai first and later spread to over 50 outlets in Beijing, Nanking, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Guiyang, Tianjin, etc. In 2010, Oriental Watch went to Taiwan as well. Today, it is firmly established over all of Chinese territories. Being its Chairman and Executive Director, Dr Yeung is a much revered figure and a legend in the industry. Dr Yeung is the Permanent Honorary Director of The Federation of Hong Kong Watch Trades and Industry Limited, Founding Honorary Chairman of The Professional Validation Centre of Business Sector, Life Member and Founding Member of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Development Foundation, and a member of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

Dr Yeung Ming Biu is a kind and charitable person who loves everything about his hometown. He holds fond memories of everything back home — its grass and wood, and its rivers and hills amidst which he spent his childhood — and is always willing and ready to requite and repay. He is the Executive President of the Hong Kong Hok Shan Association. Since 1978, he has been making continuous contributions to the building and maintenance of bridges and roads, and schools and hospitals in the hometown he cherishes so much. In 2010,



he was given the World Outstanding Chinese Award, and elected Honorary Citizen of the cities of Jiangmen, Heshan and Kaiping. At the same time, he is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference for Heshan City and the Zhuhai District, Guangdong Province.

Dr Yeung had to quit school at the age of 14 to earn a living as an apprentice at a watch company, but, with insatiable zest for self-improvement, he continued to educate himself and picked up all he could from his chosen profession. With his unswerving sincerity, he steadily forged ahead, to his present leading position in the industry. This simple Hong Kong story typifies the steady and sure path for development of local industries in the mid-twentieth century and exemplifies simple, honest values rarely found in present-day society with its superficiality and short-sighted quest for instant success and quick profits. Dr and Mrs Yeung have long been great friends of this University: they have time and again donated generously, and the scholarships they helped to set up include the "Charles K Kao Scholarship Endowment Fund", the "Yeung Ming Biu and Au Po Kee Student Exchange Fund", the "Yeung Ming Biu and Au Po Kee Non-local Scholarships", and the "Yeung Ming Biu and Au Po Kee Superior Athlete Scholarships". Dr Yeung has also contributed to the sponsoring of various student activities, including the CUHK Global Internship Programme, the CUHK-Children's Choir Fundraising Concert, and the online training programme for family caregivers of people with cognitive loss.

Dr Yeung cares the most about students who excel in academic subjects as well as sports. In addition to establishing the superior athlete scholarships, he has encouraged the development of various sports and donated for sport facilities on campus. For many years he has sponsored the "CUHK Golf Day", the rowing sports of the Physical Education Unit, the CUHK Aquatic Electric Timing System, and a visiting tour to the Beijing Olympic Games by CUHK outstanding athletes. Dr Yeung is an enthusiast in many sporting activities. Though a septuagenarian, Dr Yeung is strong in body and agile in mind, and still embraces many sports with passion. He plays golf and tennis, swims and hikes on a regular basis. Endeared as "Uncle Biu", he is the prime mover of many sporting activities at CUHK. His embodiment of his words and passion has inspired and won plaudits from teachers and students alike of the Physical Education Unit.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Dr Yeung Ming Biu's achievements and contributions in the watch industry, and his unsparing generosity to the educational and sport facilities at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, in particular his support and promotion of sports on campus, may I present Dr Yeung Ming Biu for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.