

Mr Cheng Kam-chiu Stewart

Honorary Fellow

Citation

According to *Shuowen Jiezi* (a reference book compiled by Xu Shen during the Eastern Han Dynasty in China), the Chinese character 倫 (pronounced “lún”) means 道 (pronounced “tao”, to mean a “track”, for people to follow). The left component of the word 倫 is 人 (pronounced “rén”, to mean people) while the right component, 侖 (pronounced “cè”, to mean an album of words). Thus 倫 (“lún”) could represent a pile of neatly arranged bamboo slips by people, which can imply that “One should always conduct one's business in an orderly manner, like the assortment of the bamboo slips”. If you describe a person with the word “lún”, it means that the individual has always dealt with people and work in a proper, reasonable manner, an expected personality trait of a decent person. On the other hand, championing benevolence and advocating ethics and social responsibility are Chinese traditional cultural values. Mr Chairman, we have today standing in front of us Mr Cheng Kam-chiu Stewart, who staunchly upholds the aforesaid personal traits and Chinese traditional cultural values. A family man with amiable character, he loves his family and relatives, cares for his neighbours, and is a torch-bearer in

society. He deeply believes in building up a harmonious community and creating a better future for our next generation. To that end, he puts in lots of efforts into public services. His good deeds resonate well with the word “lún”.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil and environmental engineering, the young Mr Stewart Cheng pursued further education, first in the University of California, Berkeley, and then at this University, earning himself respectively the Master's degree in Civil Engineering and an MBA. A professional engineer, Mr Cheng is a member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. He is currently Chairman of New Times Energy Corporation Limited and Managing Director of Cheung Hung Development (Holdings) Limited.

Born in Foshan of the Guangdong Province, Mr Cheng was raised up in Lunjiao, a sub-district in Shunde. His parents brought him along when settling down in Hong Kong while he was still young. Lunjiao was then an unspoiled village with honest and happy residents. People there devoted themselves

to literary pursuits and this small settlement was blessed with people of scholastic achievements, drawing the attention of the imperial government. In ancient times, Lunjiao was called Haixinsha (literally meaning a piece of sandy land at the delta of a river, thus the ancient name of Lunjiao). Legend has it that in the Ming Dynasty, a village dignitary there helped conserve, and make good use of, that sandy piece of land, winning the praise of the government. As a result, a commemorative plaque entitled “lún cháng jiào huà” (literally meaning “the good implementation of ethics and morality in society”) was presented to the village, and hence the origin of the new name “Lunjiao”. This sub-district has always been a canon of literary and artistic works, and has nurtured numerous intellectuals to the envy of other districts. A small town well rooted with high moral standards and a harmonious atmosphere is a perfect place for raising fine youngsters like those of the Cheng family, who have all inherited the virtue of ploughing back to the place where they have been raised, and in turn to the community at large.

Mr Cheng Yue-pui, father of Mr Stewart Cheng Kam-chiu, placed great emphasis on improving Lunjiao's infrastructure and fostering education opportunities for residents there. To that end, he gave donations that amount to HK\$850,000 in the 1980s to renovate his alma mater there. Following that generous deed, he continued to sponsor schools in the neighbourhood for improvement works. This benevolent

act of his stems from his affection for his home town, respect for Chinese traditional cultural values and, above all, love for the nation. Mr Stewart Cheng once said, “My father is a traditional country folk who holds dear to his heart a strong identification with his hometown and patriotism towards his country. This is how I feel about my father.” Judging from this remark, one could see that Mr Stewart Cheng has inherited his father's traits, and henceforth has conducted various gracious acts to sustain the family's legacy and to pass on the good traditions of Lunjiao.

Following his father's benevolent spirit, Mr Stewart Cheng has been active in community work, supporting various welfare projects that care for both the young and the elderly, and projects that help reinforce Chinese cultures, all for building a better society. His endeavours have unquestionably won praise and respect from all quarters. Ever since the mainland has undergone economic and social reform and opened up its door, Mr Cheng has been making numerous donations for the welfare of Shunde. His good deeds has led to, among others, the construction of the Zhengjingyi Vocational Technical School and the subsequent setting up of scholarships for students there, the establishment of scholarships at Lunjiao Middle School in Shunde, and the construction of the Shun Tak Fraternal Association Cheng Yu Tung Secondary School in Hong Kong . He also made donations to the welfare funds of Lunjiao, and provided funds to support

the renovation work of nursing homes and scholarships for impoverished children there. In 2014, he spearheaded the setting up of the Hong Kong Lun Jiao Clansman Association Limited (LJCA), with the aim to building a strong link between Lunjiao and their clansmen in Hong Kong. Each year, the LJCA organises, among other activities, the Spring Reunion gathering for its members, and Mr Cheng has spared no effort in this annual event. In 2018, the Lunjiao Education Fund launched a fund-raising campaign and Mr Cheng immediately contributed RMB 1 million to the Fund. In addition, he oftentimes arranges people and organisations to visit medical and nursing home projects in Lunjiao to show support for these worthy causes. During the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, he made a timely donation of Renminbi \$100,000 together with plentiful virus protection supplies for Lunjiao, to support its fight against the epidemic. Mr Cheng's care for both the young and elderly, his wish to give back to his hometown, his commendable deeds in promoting social harmony, and his contributions to the stability and prosperity of the country, are laudable and well recognised by all.

A veteran professional engineer with a wealth of knowledge and experience in property development and construction management, Mr Cheng has participated actively in various city planning and development projects, thereby putting into good use his skills and

expertise for the transformation of Hong Kong into a modern world-renowned city. At the start of his career in 1984, Mr Cheng first worked for Hip Hing Construction Company Limited as project manager, and was later appointed director. In 1993, he joined New World Development (China) Limited as its director and assistant general manager, overseeing the company's property development in the People Republic of China (PRC). The construction projects he has led include: the first Hong Kong financed four-star hotel in Shunde and the development of the commercial complex and shopping street at Lunjiao, etc. His work has helped the development, and has raised the quality of life, of his hometown. Before the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty back to China, Mr Cheng took part in the construction of the world famous Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and its ancillary architectural projects for the New World Group. Between 1997 and 2006, Mr Cheng was the director of NWS Service Management Limited, and in that portfolio, was mainly responsible for the construction projects and the related infrastructural works and facility management services in both Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. His other responsibility includes pursuing business opportunities in mainland China. He has been member of the Foshan Shunde District Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference for many years and, in that capacity, has been passionately helping build a strong link between Foshan and Hong Kong, which has

led to the rapid and systematic development of his hometown. His contributions are commendable and have been well acknowledged by the authorities concerned as well as his hometown folks.

Mr Cheng started his connection with the University as early as the 1980s when he attended our postgraduate programme and was awarded an MBA degree in 1983. As an alumnus, he cares deeply for the development of the University. He joined the Board of Trustees of Shaw College in 2011, and is now, among other College commitments, the Second Vice-Chairman of the Board and member of the Finance Committee under the Board. The donations and pledged donations he has made to the University in support of its development amount to HK\$14 million. The funds support many good causes of the University, including fulfilling its mission of nurturing talents and advancing research in breast cancer, all of which are not only notable but also praiseworthy. In addition, he is currently a member of the University's Campus Planning and Building Committee under the Council, which attends to issues that are connected with the overall planning of the University site, and scrutinises the building programmes in relation to the development of the University. His engineering background, plus his insights and experience in the field, are the source of wise counsel for the capital works of the University. For many years, Mr Cheng has

also supported the "CUHK Golf Day" as one of the Patrons and member of its advisory committee, thereby helping to raise funds for the University. One of the beneficiaries of the funds is the establishment of the "CUHK Golf Day Scholarship", an admission scholarship for first-year undergraduates who have achieved academic excellence and have participated actively in voluntary services and sports activities.

Mr Chairman, Lunjiao has a long tradition of nurturing young talents and proving care service for the elderly, and the town has since grown into a modern and harmonious settlement to the envy of others, with credit given to the Cheng family. Mr Stewart Cheng has inherited the virtuous traits of people at Lunjiao and put them to good use in developing both Lunjiao and Hong Kong. He cherishes the ethical spirit and moral standard of his hometown and practises them in his daily endeavours. A magnanimous and gentlemanly engineer, Mr Cheng is well-respected both in his profession and in the community at large. His selfless giving to the University is not only to the jubilation of faculty and students but also helps us attain excellence in teaching and research, and pave our way to a better future. Mr Chairman, Mr Cheng is indeed an exemplary role model for all of us. For his good deeds, Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Cheng Kam-chiu Stewart for the Honorary Fellowship.