

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Ms Yan Hau Yee, Lina, BA, DipEd, MH

Ms Lina Yan has dedicated her rich and varied life to education. After her Bachelor of Arts at United College, and her Diploma in Education at the School of Education of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Ms Yan became a teacher. Then she joined RTHK, where she became well known throughout Hong Kong as the Head of the Educational Television Division. She is now Managing Director of Chinese Culture on Net Foundation Limited. To all these important roles, and many others, Ms Yan has brought a personal vision. For her, a true education is much more than the transmission of academic knowledge. It should rather be “life affecting life”. By this she means that education should be broad, using the opportunities that life presents.

TV educational programming gave Ms Yan the opportunity to present subjects such as medicine, law, language and sex education in living contexts that are at once instructive and interesting. She believes that the new media, such as the Internet, have the power to extend education well beyond the classroom in ways that are vividly engaging to children. The website “China Lane” also follows her philosophy: it enables Hong Kong children to access the stories, history, science and moral thought of traditional Chinese civilization, thereby putting them in touch with the foundations of their culture. The Net project, which was developed through a Quality Education Fund Grant, allows teachers to use this material also for classroom purposes. At the same time, Ms Yan believes that traditional media, such as the theatre, have great educational potential. Herself a distinguished actress, she sees dramatic production as an education in teamwork; and acting helps a person to analyze character, to think about the various roles we play in different contexts. Performing drama, she says, helps us to write the script of life.

For Ms Yan, character development is an extremely important aspect of education. It is partly for this reason that she has become a member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. The arts have a critical role in extending the preoccupations of contemporary society beyond pragmatism to the deeper ethical concerns that impinge on character formation. Similar motives have prompted Ms Yan to become active in the Moral Education Concern Group (MECG) and the Trust for the Promotion of Moral Education. The MECG works through big corporations and government organizations to arrange talks for working parents about contemporary questions of morality and values.

Ms Yan has been an outstanding contributor to her alma mater, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. When the CUHK Convocation was formed in 1993, she became a member and was twice elected Chairman in 1999 and 2002. As Chairman and Convocation representative on the University Council, she has worked with great energy and dedication to develop the Convocation and to build good relations between alumni and the University. She believes that alumni have the ability to give much more than financial support to the University; they should



also contribute their wisdom. Under her leadership, the Convocation has promoted critical discussion of issues of vital interest to the University, leading to the dissemination of a dozen statements on tertiary education.

Ms Yan has played several important roles in advancing the University. She was a member of the Task Force and of the Reference Group on Institutional Integration; a member of the 40th Anniversary Celebration Organizing Committee and the Fund-Raising Committee; as well as a member of the Search Committee for the Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, 2002-2003. She is now a member of the Executive Committee of the University Council and a member of the Committee on Bilingualism. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of United College.

One of her present and most significant roles is as Supervisor and Chairman of the Management Committee of the CUHK Federation of Alumni Association Thomas Cheung Secondary School. Here she has helped to shape the unique vision of this Chinese medium school. The first priority of the school is to build good character - a mission in which all teachers and students can share. The second is that all students have a good grasp of the basic skills they will need in life, including those of language, both Chinese and English. She also runs two kindergartens, which she sees as important, as character building and skill building need to begin when children are very young. Her aspiration is to add a primary school, so that children can take their whole education up to the end of the secondary school within the framework of this vision.

Ms Lina Yan made significant contributions to Hong Kong, especially in the promotion of student and youth volunteer services, for which she was awarded the Medal of Honour in 2004. For all her many achievements, she believes that one can only become “the light of the world” if one is at the same time “the salt of the earth”. In all she does, Ms Yan manages to be both. Mr Chairman, it is my honour to present to you Ms Yan Hau Yee, Lina, distinguished educator and alumna of this University, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.

This citation is written by Professor David Parker