

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Dr Cheung Huen Cheong, Thomas, LLD

Dr Cheung Huen Cheong, Thomas is a distinguished personage in the insurance industry of Hong Kong. A renowned businessman, he is well-known for his philanthropic activities. He is an alumnus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and, true to the University motto and with an indefatigable entrepreneurial spirit, he has achieved great success in his career. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, by The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1993.

Dr Thomas Cheung was born and brought up in Hong Kong into a family from Panyu County of Guangdong Province. He studied Economics in United College and graduated among the second batch of the College's graduates. In 1960 he founded The Pacific Insurance Company, Limited and put his heart and mind to this new enterprise. Later on, he succeeded to his father's shipping agency business and achieved remarkable results. Dr Cheung's success is mainly attributed to his industriousness and a firm dedication to his business from which he has not deviated once over decades. More importantly he has the entrepreneurial vision which enabled him to recognise, at an early stage, the need for business diversification, and accordingly develop new ventures in transportation, warehousing, shipping and real estate, and to extend his commercial activities abroad. With excellent strategic planning his business has gone from strength to strength. Dr Thomas Cheung is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Pacific Insurance Company, Limited and The Pacific Life Assurance Company, Limited, and also the Chairman of over thirty companies in Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan, giving proof to his remarkable business stamina. Dr Cheung began his commercial ventures in Sri Lanka early in his career and still maintains close links with the country. In view of Dr Cheung's brilliant leadership quality and reputation, the Sri Lanka Government appointed him the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka, and in recognition of his great contributions to the country, the President of Sri Lanka conferred upon him the national honour *Sri Lanka Ranjana* in 1991 and named a village after him as *Thomas Cheung Gama*. Dr Cheung is also a Life Member of The International Association of Lion Clubs.

Dr Thomas Cheung is a staunch supporter of charitable causes, including education, medical services, disaster relief and poverty alleviation in Hong Kong, Mainland China and abroad. Dr Cheung is a generous benefactor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong to which he has made magnanimous donations to set up student scholarships, support medical research, sponsor staff and student activities, as well as build sports facilities. In 1992 he presented a gift of \$10 million to the University, an act of great munificence which has been much praised to these days. He has recently donated another \$5 million in aid of Mainland students pursuing studies at the University. Such are his keen interest in exploring opportunities for further education for the younger generation and his ardent support for the University, which have earned him admiration and praise.



Dr Cheung is a Member of the Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and has been a member of a number of key committees, including the Audit Committee, the Honorary Fellowship Committee, the Terms of Service Committee, the Board of Advisors for Staff Appointment, Committee on Donations, the 40th Anniversary Celebration Organising Committee, the Professor Wu Jie-ping Fund Management Committee. He is also the Vice-Chairman of the United College Board of Trustees and the Chairman of the United College Endowment Fund Committee, making substantial contributions to the development of the University and the College.

Dr Cheung is dedicated to alumni affairs as he is well aware that the participation of and support from alumni is essential to the continuous development of the University. He has thus played a pivotal role in strengthening ties among the alumni and between the University and its alumni. He earned high respect from his fellow alumni. Since 1972 he has been annually elected the President of the United College Alumni Association for over three decades. In addition, he was thrice the President of the Federation of Alumni Associations of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and is currently a Director of the Federation's Education Foundation. CUHK FAA Thomas Cheung Secondary School, CUHK FAA Thomas Cheung School and CUHK FAA Thomas Cheung Kindergarten were all established by the Education Foundation with major funding from Dr Cheung. He has been the Chairman of the School Management Committee of these schools and the CUHK FAA Chan Chun Ha Secondary School for years. He is currently the Emeritus Chairman of the School Management Committees of these schools. It is well recognized that education is vital to the growth of a nation and the development of society, Dr Cheung's benevolence, generosity and contributions to the promotion of educational endeavours is much appreciated by the community-at-large.

Dr Cheung describes his working principles as meticulous in planning and audacious in execution. This is to be tempered with frequent reflection and introspection, keeping every action under scrutiny and review. With the accumulation of experience, these principles become the mighty steps towards success and plausibly account for his outstanding achievements.

Dr Thomas Cheung has deep affection towards Hong Kong where he received education and built up his career. The Hong Kong society has nurtured his growth, and he is paying back handsomely for the education of the future generations.

Mr Chairman, in consideration of his great success in high commerce, his intense affection for Hong Kong, and his tremendous contributions to the University, Dr Cheung Huen Cheong, Thomas has set a very fine example for those who come after him, and I present him for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.