

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Chung Wing Kok, Leslie

Hong Kong is blessed to have many people who deploy their wealth for the benefit of humanity. Their passion is not the desire for personal gain but the wish to make a difference in the lives of others. Mr Leslie W.K. Chung, whom we are honouring here this afternoon, devotes himself to the promotion of public education, research into environmental protection, alternative energy sources and human values.

Raised and educated in Hong Kong, Mr Chung entered the business sector and rose to become Chief Operating Officer of Atico Limited, a major US trading firm. Since his retirement in 1997, he has been a Director of CFL Anchor Limited, encouraging and financially supporting start-up companies in Hong Kong. His focus is on new technologies and innovative business concepts. In this he has had considerable success, helping to build new corporations. Presently he sits on the board of various manufacturing companies. He also serves as advisor to several investment companies.

Together with his brothers, who have all entered professions in North America, Mr Chung set up the Philomathia Foundation. Philomathia means "love of knowledge", and the Foundation is dedicated to the support of teaching and research in leading universities around the world. The Foundation has endowed Fellowships in Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge to promote teaching and research in the fields of politics and modern languages. It also supports research into environmental protection and alternative energy sources at the University of California at Berkeley. This includes the work of Nobel Laureate Steven Chu, who is Philomathia Professor of Alternative Energy there. The Foundation has funded fellowships at various Canadian universities to enable graduates to undertake personal development programmes. More recently the Foundation has supported the establishment of the Research Centre for Human Values at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. This will be the first human values centre in Asia and it will build significant links between CUHK and other major humanities research centres around the world.

Apart from these contributions to higher education and research by the Philomathia Foundation, Mr Chung has been a major sponsor of the Hong Kong Parliamentary Debating Society, which runs summer workshops to teach advanced debating skills to Hong Kong secondary school students. Mr Chung attends the debates himself and takes a keen personal interest in the ways in which such activities build up critical thinking, public speaking and English language skills.

Mr Chung is distinguished by the discerning and passionate interest he shows in the causes he sponsors. He not only contributes financially but is ever ready to help build academic and research networks between the institutions he supports. Recognizing this broad contribution, the University of Cambridge in 2008 made him a Companion of the Guild of Benefactors.



His name was recorded on the Benefactor's Staircase in Old Schools in the historic heart of Cambridge University.

Mr Chung has been a particularly staunch supporter of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. One of his principal concerns is to facilitate the advancement of education in Hong Kong, especially language education. In 2000-01 he made a generous donation establishing The Grand Way Endowment Fund for research into ways of improving the primary and secondary school systems in Hong Kong. Typically he has actively participated in the work of the Management of the Grand Way Endowment Fund, and has helped to set up the Grand Way Scholarships programme. He has also supported the Summer Programmes for the Gifted and Talented (in 2000), the Young Writer's Project, the Soaring on the Learning Stage 2004 project, the On-line Platform for Early Childhood Education and other projects, all under the auspices of the Faculty of Education.

Since 2003 Mr Chung has also given strong support to the Evaluation Study of the National Writing Project (NWP), later known as Writing for Integrated Teacher Education (WriTE) Project in Hong Kong. He serves as an Adviser of the Project Team and sponsors the Project through the Dr Tien Chang Lin Technology Innovation Foundation. This project allows the University to connect to a network of about 200 university-affiliated sites across the United States as well as other international partners. In 2002, the Faculty of Education became the NWP's first site in Asia. In 2007, in recognition of its achievements, the WriTE Project was designated as the first NWP Associated International Site. Mr Chung was Guest of Honour of the WriTE Conference cum Writing Competition in 2007 and the Scholarships Award Presentation Ceremony of the Faculty of Education in April 2008.

Mr Chung has also made significant contributions to the University in establishing the Dr Tien Chang Lin Technology Innovation Foundation Lecture Series on Language Education and Liberal Studies in 2004. He has also participated in the establishment of the Dr Tien Chang Lin Technology Innovation Foundation Scholarships.

Since 2005 the Dr Tien Chang Lin Technology Innovation Foundation has also sponsored the Chinese Universities Shakespeare Festival jointly organized at CUHK by the Department of English and the Office of the Arts Administrator. Mr Chung and his co-sponsor Mr Liu actively participate at every step in the planning and development of the Festival. They have helped it evolve to the point where every year over 30 universities from mainland China, Taiwan, Macao and Hong Kong participate in the Festival, putting on short scenes from Shakespeare's plays. The Festival now sponsors drama experts to provide these university teams with master classes in English enunciation, acting and directing in regional centres across China. The finalist teams perform every year in Hong Kong before cumulative audiences of up to 3,000 Hong Kong secondary and tertiary students. Mr Chung attends all the final performances and has taken such a personal interest in the educational benefits of the Festival that he has personally accompanied the winning team to the UK to see Shakespeare performed in London and Stratford.



Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Mr Chung Wing Kok, Leslie, philanthropist and dedicated supporter of higher education and research, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.

This citation is written by Professor David Parker