

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### **Sir Chung-kong Chow, DEng (Hon), BSc, MSc, MBA, CEng, HonFHKIE, HonFIET, FEng, FCGI, FICHEM, FHKEng, FCILT**

“His achievements have been built in nations on four continents, and he made his fame in Hong Kong in the railway network.” Sir Chung-kong Chow is one of the most outstanding members of our community. He is an international business leader of the first rank, and at present the Chief Executive Officer of the MTR Corporation Limited.

Sir C K was born in Hong Kong in 1950, where he received his primary and secondary education. While as a pupil he was in the mathematics and science stream at Pui Ching Middle School, parental education has accounted for the young Chow’s considerable attainment in Chinese studies, and the solid understanding of Chinese culture that he had built for himself. Upon finishing school at Pui Ching Middle School, Sir C K proceeded to the University of Wisconsin where he obtained his BSc in Chemical Engineering. He then did postgraduate work at the University of California and was awarded a MSc. In 2001, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Engineering degree by the University of Bath in the United Kingdom. Sir C K is a Chartered Engineer and, over the years, has held career appointments in the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan and Australia. His knowledge and experience are remarkable for their breadth and profundity, his achievements are seen all over the world, and his name is a revered one in high commerce. His reputation was already substantial among business communities in the West prior to his return to Hong Kong to head up the MTR Corporation. Be that as it may, Sir C K is not one who would let go of opportunities to pursue greater learning and further knowledge. He graduated from the Advanced Management Programme at the Harvard Business School, and completed the MBA Programme at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1981, adding great lustre to the Programme’s star-studded assembly of graduates.

Sir C K began his career in international enterprises right after graduation. He was a senior executive of the BOC Group PLC for over twenty years, and held key positions in Hong Kong, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom, becoming the Managing Director of the BOC Group PLC and Chief Executive of the Gases Division in 1993. From 1997 to 2001 Sir C K was the Chief Executive of GKN PLC, a global British manufacturing company, after which he became the Chief Executive Officer of Brambles Industries PLC, a company listed in both Britain and Australia. In 2003, Sir C K returned to Hong Kong to assume the office of Chief Executive Officer of the MTR Corporation Limited and, in 2007, upon the successful merger of the MTR Corporation and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, he became the Chief Executive Officer of the new MTR Corporation. At the same time, Sir C K holds independent and non-executive directorships of many business groups and listed companies in Hong Kong, for example, the Standard Chartered Bank, the Anglo American PLC, and the AIA Group Limited. Thus is the respect and esteem that he is held in the business community that, in 2000, he was knighted by Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom for his outstanding



contribution to industry and engineering. In 2001, he was elected International Executive of the Year by the Academy of International Management. More recently he was designated Executive of the Year by the DHL/South China Morning Post Business Awards in 2006, and presented with the Director of the Year award by the Hong Kong Institute of Directors in the same year. In two consecutive years, 2009 and 2010, Sir C K was elected the Best CEO in Hong Kong by the FinanceAsia Magazine. On one occasion, when he was sharing his management experience with others, Sir C K suggested that “Strategy is the key to success in business.” He added, “One should carry himself like an ancient Chinese coin, that is, he should be smooth and circular on the outside, but square and stern on the inside. It would do well to be able to gain mastery in both aspects.” From his exalted position Sir C K has conducted business and devised strategies at the highest level and on a global scale. He always leads and executes his policies and strategies in a composed and calm manner, harkening back to the nonchalant ease of Zhuge Liang in the latter’s military deployments. Apart from expanding the railway network in Hong Kong, he also promoted the MTR business in Beijing, Shenzhen, Europe and Australia. Despite the height from which he commands, Sir C K is a most personable gentleman, being very approachable and never seen without a smile. He is referred to as a CEO of the World Class and the Most Friendly CEO by his peers for obviously good reasons.

The MTR Corporation Limited under the management of Sir C K is quite different from other listed companies and commercial enterprises in that its business and operation have a direct impact on the lives and work of millions of Hong Kong citizens. It thus follows that those who run this corporation must be gifted with the most consummate skills, and also a deep commitment to service for the people of Hong Kong. It is indeed a highly veritable fact that Sir C K has a genuine concern for the society, the economy, and the education and livelihood of the people of Hong Kong, and has always sought to play an active part in such matters. He is a member of the Commission on Strategic Development, and sits on the Standing Committee on Directorate Salaries and Conditions of Service, the Standing Committee on Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service, and the Independent Commission on Remuneration for Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature, and Officials under the Political Appointment System of the Hong Kong SAR Government. At the same time Sir C K is a member of the Standing Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, a Board member of the Community Chest of Hong Kong and a Steward of The Hong Kong Jockey Club. His involvement is extensive, and his contribution has been profound.

Sir C K has close affinity with The Chinese University of Hong Kong built up over many years. He completed the Chinese University’s MBA programme in 1981 and from then on has been an illustrious alumnus who lends his staunch support to the alma mater in her many development projects. He has been a member of the University Council since 2004, and has successively been a member of the Board of Trustees of Shaw College, the Committee on Donations, the Search Committee for the Appointment of the Dean of Faculty of Business



Administration, and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Reorganization of the Council.

Mr Chairman, to celebrate his contribution to the business and industrial community, his dedicated efforts in the service of the community of Hong Kong at large, and in recognition of the remarkable achievement he has made to the advantage of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, may I present Sir Chung-kong Chow for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.