

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Tchou Ming Kong, Larry

Tourism, along with financial services, trading and logistics, and producer and professional services, is one of the so-called “Four Pillars” of Hong Kong’s service-based economy. Of the four, tourism has been the fastest growing in recent years and the strongest engine of employment growth. Between 2000 and 2009, 28.4% of the new jobs created in Hong Kong were in the tourism sector. In 2010, driven largely by Mainland visitors, arrivals in Hong Kong surged 21.8% to a record of 36 million and are expected to reach over 40 million in the current year. While some of the employment growth is in relatively unskilled areas, the demand for highly trained and educated hotel and tourism executives to lead the industry now and in the foreseeable future is obviously a highly significant one.

Those in this University who set up its then School of Hotel Management in 1997 to meet the projected need at a time when none of this spectacular growth was on the horizon showed both entrepreneurial boldness and inspired foresight. And those who went on to establish a regional Centre of Excellence in Hotel and Tourism Management, centered on a major teaching hotel on the University campus, most surely knew how to build an institution to lead Hong Kong’s hotel and tourism education into the future. The institution-building required collaborations and partnerships. One was with the world leader in hotel and tourism education, the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University in the US. Another was with the New World Development Company Limited who funded the development and continues to fund the operation costs of the magnificent Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Shatin, that has added so much richness and convenience to our lives in the past few years. The many people who have contributed to the building of the School that we have now include, among others, the UGC and successive Vice-Chancellors.

One of the people most instrumental in bringing all of this about is Mr Larry Tchou, who stands before us here tonight. Himself a distinguished practitioner in the hotel industry, Mr Tchou has been a Member (2000-02) and then Chairman (2002-present) of the Advisory Committee on Hotel and Tourism and Management during the crucial years when the Teaching Hotel project was being conceived and developed. As Senior Vice-President and Managing Director of Hyatt International-Asia Pacific Limited he provided the crucial link between the industry and the University that has given our students unparalleled opportunities to learn best practice in the hospitality industry in what is described as a “multidimensional, longitudinal and experimental setting for research and education”. Mr Tchou provided input and feedback on issues related to curriculum design and helped to enrich students’ learning environment by supporting internship and employment opportunities for the School’s students. He has also personally participated in their state of the art education. In 1999-2000 and 2005-06 he delivered speeches in the Distinguished Speaker Series organized by the School of Hotel and Tourism Management. Mr Tchou taught the course “Global Hotel Chain Management” for the Executive



In-Residence Programme in 2002-03 and 2006-07, and has been an Adjunct Associate Professor of the School since 2008. Mr Tchou has also contributed to the strategic vision of the Teaching Hotel programme, expressed as “the guiding spirit” of connecting “frontier business concepts with best hospitality practices”. He has encouraged the School to hold teaching and training programmes and to provide a wide range of services, including consultancy services, to hotel industry practitioners in Hong Kong, Mainland China and other Asian cities.

Mr Tchou was born in Shanghai and holds a Degree in Business Administration from the Sydney Technical College in Australia. He has been honoured as an Outstanding Innovative Leader of the China Hotel Industry, at the 5th China Hotel Starlight Awards, the Centre of Asia Hotel Forum, 2010. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, 2008, as well as an Outstanding Honorary Award of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, 2007. He was also appointed Distinguished Lecturer, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as well as Honorary Professor at Shanghai University.

Mr Tchou has made many contributions to public and community service. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee of the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; a Member of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; a Member of the Audit Committee of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; Chairman (2005-present) and a Member (2000-05) of the Hotel, Catering and Tourism Training Board of the Vocational Training Council, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; a Member of the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute of the Vocational Training Council, 2000-present; a Member of the Advisory Committee on Travel Agents, 2000-04; a Member of the Steering Committee on the English in the Workplace Campaign, 1999-2000; Chairman of the Department Advisory Board on Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management, Hong Kong Technical College (Chai Wan), 1996-1998; Vice-Chairman, Hong Kong Employees Retraining Board, 1992-95; Honorary Advisor, Hong Kong Association of Registered Tour Coordinators Limited, 1984-97; Member of the Hotel-Keeping and Tourism Studies Departmental Board, Haking Wong Technical Institute, 1983; Member of the Advisory Committee on Institutional Management and Catering Studies, Hong Kong Polytechnic, 1981-95; and Chairman of the Hong Kong Hotels Association, 1978-80.

Mr Chairman, it is an honour to present to you Mr Tchou Ming Kong Larry, distinguished hospitality industry leader and contributor to hotel and tourism education, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.

This citation is written by Professor David Parker.