

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Ms Leung Hung Kee, BA, BSc, DipEd, LLB, MFin, MCG, MA

People who live in Hong Kong and have the economic means but not the desire to pursue material gratification are extremely hard to come by, but distinguished alumna of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and renowned philanthropist Ms Leung Hung Kee exemplifies that virtue. Ms Leung lives modestly: she dresses in good taste and appropriately, and does not value luxury; she is not particular about food and is never wasteful. She is happy to live in a simple home; to get around, she relies completely on public transport and a second-hand car. In other words, in each of the four aspects of clothing, food, accommodation and transport, Ms Leung's life embodies the virtues of a reverence for environmental protection and the earth's resources.

Ms Leung allows herself few comforts, is generous and giving to a fault towards society, and often donates to educational and medical causes in Hong Kong. Since 1993, she has made multiple donations to Marymount Primary School, Marymount Secondary School, Hotung Secondary School, and the University of Hong Kong, has established various scholarships, and supported teaching and research work. In addition, she has provided funding enabling Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital to set up two medical training centres. Since 2004, Ms Leung has time and again made donations to New Asia College of CUHK, giving the College financial assistance for its development and student learning. She has provided even broader support for and enhanced research work in the University's Chinese medicine and its Department of History.

Ms Leung's sublime spirit of generosity comes from her upbringing. When her mother Mrs Julia Leung was a teacher, in addition to giving her utmost, she helped students resolve their study, financial and family difficulties and paid visits to patients in hospital. At home, she exhorted her daughter to follow the rule that you must give back to society whatever you take from it. Leung Hung Kee's father Mr Kenneth Leung, who had aspirations to help the world at an early age, naturally provided strong support for his wife's charitable work. At the same time, he loved his daughter, never forgetting to give her some gentle fatherly advice on how she should live her life: "If you earn money in future, there's no need to be too frugal; there's no harm in buying some of the things you like!" Yet clothes, jewellery, cars, yachts, and luxury houses were not what Ms Leung wanted! When she learned that the government had cut university funding, she decided to do everything in her power to offer financial support to New Asia College of CUHK, to nurture talent and act for the good of society. Ms Leung said: "If the students flourish, I will be genuinely happy. At the same time, I strongly believe that this kind of investment gives the greatest return, and is far more meaningful than adding to one's collection of expensive clothes and jewellery or buying a yacht or a luxury house." When her mother, Mrs Leung was still alive, she felt exceptionally proud and honoured when she saw her daughter engage in admirable deeds and make venerable achievements.



From Ms Leung Hung Kee's perspective, learning is another meaningful activity. She reads extensively, has taken extramural courses at the London University, received a Bachelor Degree of Arts and then a Bachelor Degree of Science, after which she took a Bachelor Degree in Laws at Manchester Metropolitan University, a Master of Finance at Australia's Curtin University of Technology, and a Master of Corporate Governance at the Open University of Hong Kong, as well as passing a professional examination at England's ACCA. Ms Leung has also taken a number of research institute courses at CUHK and has earned a Diploma of Education, as well as a Master of Arts in Comparative and Public History. She is now taking a Master of Philosophy in History course, specifically researching the development of multiculturalism in Hong Kong. It can be seen that Ms Leung is a strong believer in the adage that "as Heaven obtains vigour through movement, so should man strive for nobility through self-improvement". She is the model of a lifelong student.

Why does Ms Leung seem to thrive on study? The answer lies in an estate duty case that tied her up for six years. Because of this tax case, Ms Leung developed a deep appreciation for the power of knowledge. It started when her father died in 1980, leaving an estate whose main asset was his own house. At that time, the amount of estate duty the government was lawfully entitled to levy amounted to 18% of the value of the house, which was given a high valuation. All the Leung family's major funds were frozen by the government during the dispute. At that time, Ms Leung's lawyer was not only unable to help her, but also told her to sell the house if she couldn't pay estate duty. Ms Leung subsequently discovered a specialist book for lawyers' reference published by the government that set out various property valuation regulations in detail. She assiduously studied its contents and as it directed, surveyed the environment in the local residential area and property prices, after which she argued her case strongly, going through three rounds of negotiations with the government, ultimately having the valuation reduced by more than 40% and avoiding having to sell the house to pay estate duty. This experience launched Ms Leung on an unflinching and unremitting search for knowledge, and when she later took advanced courses in specialized subjects such as commerce and accounting, she used the knowledge she had gained to make profitable securities investments, as a result of which she had even greater resources with which to support the development of education and medicine in Hong Kong.

Ms Leung was taught by her mother from an early age to be civic-minded. She has taught at Po Kok Girls' Middle School, was a director of Northcote College of Education Past Students' Association School, and actively participates in volunteer work at hospitals, homes for elderly, religious organizations, and charities, assisting vulnerable groups in society. She has served as a member of the Judiciary's Panel of Adjudicators (Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles) since 1996 and is currently a senior member and founding member of the Hong Kong University Foundation.

In 2004, Ms Leung became a director of New Asia College; in 2006, she became Vice-Chairperson of the New Asia College Board of Trustees and Deputy Convener of the



Fundraising Sub-Committee of the New Asia College Board of Trustees, in addition to playing an active part in mentoring programmes, diligently helping the younger generation. Ms Leung has made generous donations to establish the Leung Hung Kee Fund, and rendered strong support to the development of New Asia College. She regards the nurture of students as her own responsibility, and has donated funds for a number of scholarships including the Mrs Julia Leung Memorial Scholarships, the Mr Kenneth Leung Memorial Scholarships, the Ms Kwong Hing Kwai Memorial Scholarship, the Mr and Mrs James Joseph S.L. Cheung Memorial Scholarship, and the Mr H.C. Ho Memorial Scholarship, assisting students with outstanding academic performance or who come from poor families. In 2005, New Asia College named the staff student centre the Staff Student Centre-Leung Hung Kee Building to express its admiration and gratitude for Ms Leung's contributions to the College.

Ms Leung has done her utmost to support CUHK, making multiple donations to the University's School of Chinese Medicine and the Institute of Chinese Medicine to develop research in Chinese medicine. Since 2008, Ms Leung has given great financial support each year to the University's Lee Woo Sing Hong Kong History Resource Centre of Shaw College, supporting research in the Department of History. Recently, Ms Leung has agreed to make an even more generous donation of HK\$10,000,000 to support the university in establishing a Hong Kong History and Culture Research Centre, promoting local history and culture research and education and taking the University's existing emphasis on cultural traditions further.

Ms Leung Hung Kee is selfless, generous, compassionate, and public spirited, in her support for the development of education and medicine in Hong Kong. She is also an active participant in various types of volunteer work that benefit society. She is extremely studious, practises what she learns, and inspires the young with the nobility of her character. She is, in short, a model citizen. Ms Leung has a special concern for the development of her alma mater, CUHK, kindly supporting its teaching and research work to nurture talent for society, and doing her utmost for her alma mater's unique college system. Mr Chairman, to recognize Ms Leung's exceptional contributions to Hong Kong society and to CUHK, may I present Ms Leung Hung Kee for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.