

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Fung Siu To, Clement, BASc, FHKIE, FHKIoD

Mr Fung Siu To, Clement grew up in Hong Kong in the 1950's and 60's, a time of poor material conditions when most people in the territory worked hard, lived humbly, and were kind towards others. This laid favourable foundations for the later development of society. As a child, Mr Fung's mother instilled in him a profound care for people and matters around him, which eventually gave rise to a charitable disposition in the young man. Later when his career took off, he would silently support charitable causes for the good of the people. Mr Fung's experience and his life of service are fine examples of the importance of industry and giving that lies at the core of Hong Kong's "Lion's Rock" values.

As a student in Canada, Mr Fung worked part-time to pay for his tuition and living expenses. That enriched his life experience, enabling him to make the acquaintance of people from all walks of life, and allowing him to understand that only by helping each other out, and giving, regardless of nationality and ethnicity, that we can become better versions of ourselves. In the face of constricting financial circumstances, Mr Fung maintained his drive to improve as well as a broad and open mind. For a period of time, he would only get off work after "lights-off" in the dormitory, and he would go to the attic of the chapel, where he would study at a ping-pong table. Dim as the light might be, and difficult the subject of calculus might be, he nonetheless persevered and made great strides in his academic performance, so much so that he even tutored some of his less able classmates.

Mr Fung received a Bachelor of Applied Science (Civil Engineering) from the University of Waterloo in 1976. After graduation, he stayed in Canada where he worked for several years before returning to Hong Kong. Back home, his competence and confidence landed him jobs in large, reputable corporations which entrusted him with major projects. Mr Fung subsequently founded his own business and remains active in the professional and commercial sector to this day. At present, he is the Chairman of Asia Standard International Group Ltd and Chairman and Executive Director of Asia Orient Holdings Ltd, Executive Director of Asia Standard Hotel Group Ltd, and independent non-executive director of New Times Energy Corporation Ltd. He is also a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Hong Kong Institution of Directors.

Committed to charity, Mr Fung has been giving back to society through the rendering of actual services. His public duties have included part-time member of the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR Government (2005–06), member of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, member of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, member of the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, member of the Federation of Hong Kong Hotel Owners, and member of the Yunnan Overseas Economic Cooperation and Promotion Association. He is especially involved in education for the youth. Besides his zealous participation in the affairs of The



Chinese University of Hong Kong, he is a consultant and a visiting professor to Yunnan Normal University Business School, Honorable Principal of a number of “Hope Schools” in China and a board member of the Escola Chong Tak de Macau.

Yet Mr Fung makes light of his wealth of experience and his achievements, because he believes that by consistently being modest, down-to-earth and industrious, anyone can achieve what he did. He is of the view that opportunities come to those who are sincere, hard-working and fearless of responsibility. University graduates who do not mind a humble starting salary and who patiently acquire experience will find opportunities knocking on their doors. He encourages students to serve society and to get into contact with the grassroots in order to understand how other people live, and to contemplate how they can contribute.

Mr Fung admits that in his youth, he greatly admired students of the Chinese University because of their privilege of studying in an academic ambience with a beautiful natural environment. But his finding his path to CUHK had to wait until some years later. One of his tennis partners was Professor Yeung Yue Man, then Head of Shaw College, who invited him to join in the service for the College. As he was in agreement with the educational ideals of the College and of CUHK, he readily accepted. In 1997, he joined Shaw College as a member of its Board of Trustees. In 2008, he became the Second Vice-chairman of the Board, and in September 2011, succeeded Professor Ma Lin as the Chairman of the Board.

Mr Fung’s involvement in the Central Policy Unit of the HKSAR Government led him to a deeper understanding of the hardships faced by people living in remote areas and by disadvantaged groups in society. He launched the Caring Heart Community Service Project Scheme in Shaw College and recruited students and encouraged them to propose service projects. Over the years, the scheme has been well received by students, and has become one of the highlight activities of the College. Students are responsible for proposing ideas as well as their execution, and their service targets are disadvantaged groups including single-parent families, orphans, the physically disabled, and the elderly. At the end of the scheme, Mr Fung would always take part in the students’ sharing sessions, and through these, have made friends with many of them. Despite the triumph of his brainchild, Mr Fung remains characteristically modest, attributing it to the efforts of the students while claiming he has only provided the necessary conditions for its success. He said modestly, “I’m a single match-stick but I hope to kindle a ball of fire.”

Mr Fung has also been actively involved in policy-making and development at the Chinese University. Since 2002, he has been a member of the Campus Planning and Building Committee. In May 2011, he became a member of the University Council. In June the same year, he was appointed a member of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Organizing Committee. His duties at CUHK are so vast and many that they have taken up over half of the time he devotes to social services.



A humorous and broad-minded man, Mr Fung is charismatic and approachable, exuding an amicability that is easily detected. His mother, who had only received primary school education, was the inspiration and the motivation for his generosity. Old Mrs Fung had taught him to keep his feet firmly planted in the ground, to maintain a low profile and to take pleasure in service to others. He recalls that despite their less-than-favourable financial circumstances, his mother would lend support to relatives, neighbours or even strangers in need. To this day, he still remembers how she personally enacted what she preached. Mr Fung Siu To, Clement has been quietly and stoically toiling in both his public and private lives, while never flaunting his laurels. He keeps people's good deeds in mind and never holds a grudge. As long as he is able to, he would loosen his purse-strings for others, whether old friends or poor students he has never met. And he would do so efficiently, unrelentingly, thoughtfully, and without a grumble, good-naturedly doing charity while chatting and laughing.

Mr Chairman, Mr Fung Siu To, Clement has made enormous contributions to Shaw College and to the Chinese University through helping to nurture students, promote campus development, and raise funds. He has set a brilliant example for our young, exhibiting the very qualities found in the College slogan, "Excellence with a Soul, Leadership with a Heart" and facilitating the betterment of humankind, as upheld by the University mission. Mr Chairman, may I now present Mr Fung Siu To, Clement for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.