

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Leung Fung-yee, Anita, B.A., M.A., Ph.D

In the chapter 'Shou Shi Pian' of the classical literature *Liushi Chunqiu*, it states that the key to success for people of those times is to 'be diligent and prepared for the opportunity'. It means that an aspiring individual should first make strenuous efforts to advance themselves and then wait patiently for the right opportunity. When will that opportunity come? It depends on destiny. But being in a position to capture the opportunity will put you on the right track. Dr Leung Fung-yee Anita, a distinguished entrepreneur and renowned novelist, bears witness to this truth.

Dr Leung graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in history, and was awarded a master's degree in the same subject in 1972. In 1983, she enrolled in CUHK Graduate School for a Doctor of Philosophy programme. Under the guidance of Professor Mou Run-sun and Professor Wang Erh-ming, Dr Leung's research focused on the history of the late Qing Dynasty. In 1985, she earned her doctorate with her thesis, 'The Function of Late Qing Popular Novels on the Promotion of New Thinking', which elaborated the historic role of Late Qing novels in spreading new political ideas. With this background, Dr Leung was particularly aware of the vital role of popular novels in a rapidly thriving society. Her works took inspiration from Hong Kong's dramatic social and economic changes in the late 1980s, a time when working women, in spite of their diligence, struggled in their careers and had to surmount numerous obstacles to achieve success. With her talent for observation and her excellent writing skills, she created a brand new Hong Kong novel style, the 'finance-themed series', telling stories of how these tough women flourished in the business world, intertwined with romances in their lives. The novels took Chinese communities by storm and became bestsellers. To date, she has published more than 100 novels and essays and won numerous awards, establishing herself as a pioneering figure in Hong Kong's literary scene.

In 1992, Dr Leung was granted the Writer of the Year Award by the Urban Council of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Artists' Guild. In the same year, People's Literature Press, a grade-A state literary publishing house, started publishing her works, including the full-length novels *Zui Hong Chen*, *Hua Kui Jie* and *Hao Men Jing Meng*, which had been all the rage in China. The publishing house also printed a book named *The Phenomenon of Anita Leung Fung Yee*, a well-received collection of literary criticism about Dr Leung's novels. In addition, her novel *Old Sores Unlimited* won the Grand Prix Award for novels in the 'Legendary' contest. Novels written by Dr Leung were the bestselling books at the National Capital Book Fair in Beijing in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. In 1995, one of Dr Leung's proses obtained a Special Award in the Seventh Straits Sentiments Essay Contest Organized by China Central Broadcasting Radio. Dozens of Dr Leung's novels have also been adapted for movies and television drama series in mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Her work *Embroidered Banner* was adapted as a TV drama series by China Central Television (CCTV) and became the first among Hong Kong novelists' works to be broadcast during prime time on Channel One of CCTV in 1996.

According to the chapter 'Shou Shi Pian' of *Lüshi Chunqiu*, 'the difficulty of a matter does not depend on how significant it is, but whether the timing is right.' Dr Leung certainly made the right choice at the right time. At a time when her novels were a great hit across China and beyond, Dr Leung seized the opportunity to reach every reader and audience in the country by turning her novels into TV dramas. She also decided to separate the media business from Qin Jia Yuan Media Publishing Company Limited, a corporation founded by her, and established Qin Jia Yuan Media Services Company, which has been listed on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 2004. The newly founded firm cooperated with nearly 200 major province or city-level television stations, producing almost 1,000 episodes of television drama series, and becoming one of the leading content suppliers of television drama series in China. Dr Leung spearheaded an array of strategic partnerships with prominent international media companies. This move not only promoted collaborations between Chinese companies and their overseas counterparts, but opened the door for international capital, experience and expertise in the Chinese market.

With a vision and a plan, Dr Leung made a resolute move to the business sector during the climax of her writing career and became the founder of one of the few foreign-owned national media business companies in China. The company was listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange. When facing a critical moment in establishing a partnership with CCTV and the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, Dr Leung bravely gave up her 20 years of business achievements and started writing again. At the moment, she is persistently writing a political love novel that covers over 60 years of Hong Kong history from 1949 till now. According to Dr Leung, this unprecedented work will be her final novel.

Whilst Dr Leung has grown from a literary novelist to a successful entrepreneur, from managing little more than a pen to a Main Board listed company, she remains calm and level-headed. She explains her secret of success on a moderate note: 'Diligence and luck are both indispensable elements for success in life. Not only do we have to work hard all the time, but we also need to go naturally along the path destiny has set out for us.' In 2007, she was selected as one of China's 100 Outstanding Female Entrepreneurs, as well as receiving one of The 10 Outstanding Entrepreneurs Awards by *Capital Entrepreneur* in 2008. Her company was included in world-leading business magazine *Forbes Asia's* 'Best 200 Under a Billion' list in 2007 and 2009.

In addition to an illustrious career in both literature and business, Dr Leung is also a keen participant in public services. Twice appointed as a member of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) of the People's Republic of China, she is now a member of the National Committee of the CPPCC, Standing Committee Member of The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Vice President of the Hong Kong Federation of Women, and Standing Committee Member of the Hong Kong Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Committee. An earnest devotee of public welfare, Dr Leung established the Qin Jia Yuan Foundation Limited, serving as its Life Honorary President to support the development of art, culture and education, other social welfare activities, and especially the promotion of women's rights and respect.

Dr Leung has been a staunch supporter and major benefactor of CUHK. She has made valuable contributions to the development of the University by serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of Chung Chi College, Chairman of the Committee of Overseers of Lee Woo Sing College, and a member of the CUHK 50th Anniversary Celebration Organizing Committee. Over the years, she has contributed all her income generated by copyrights and the selling of her interests in the listed companies to local and overseas charities. To show her devotion to CUHK, Dr Leung has often generously donated to support the development of Chung Chi College and Lee Woo Sing College, and has established a number of scholarship schemes at the University both personally and through the Qin Jia Yuan Foundation Limited. In 2013, she also chaired an organizing committee to organize the 'Meeting the Masters' Gala to celebrate the golden jubilee of CUHK and to raise donations for the development of Lee Woo Sing College.

Mr Chairman, I have the great honour of presenting to you Dr Leung Fung-yee, Anita, an outstanding alumna with a caring heart, a distinguished novelist, an entrepreneur who established an extensive media group, and a philanthropist who has made enormous contribution to CUHK, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.