

# Honorary Fellow A Citation

## Mr HUI Ming

Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, Li Shimin, says: 'Taking polished bronze as a mirror, one can correct one's appearance; taking history as a mirror, one can understand changes in society; taking others as a mirror, one can distinguish right from wrong.' The statement uses the mirror as a metaphor for a wise intellect. The emperors relied on wisdom that came from reflection on their own virtues and the facts. With a crystal-clear mind, one can see the opportunities that present themselves and use this insight to make wise decisions which lead to outstanding achievements. You become the kind of generous and broad-minded person who gives back to their hometown, educates others and improves society, making an impact that will be felt for generations.

Mr Hui Ming and his elder brother, the late philanthropist Mr Hui Hoy, were the founders of Koon Wah Mirror Factory Limited (Koon Wah Mirror Factory). Born into poverty in the town of Dali, Nanhai, Foshan, the Hui brothers moved to Hong Kong in the 1950s in search of a better life. With Hong Kong's economic growth creating a growing demand for glass, the brothers founded Koon Wah Mirror Factory, one of the few major mirror factories in the city in the 1960s. It was in a building of over 10,000 square feet, making it the city's largest mirror factory. Hong Kong's real estate market was prospering by then, with the skyscrapers going up one after another, so the demand of glass was huge. Koon Wah Mirror Factory's business blossomed. The Hui brothers' business acumen stood out from the crowd.

In the 1970s, the Hui brothers went into real estate. They purchased two parcels of land from the government on Wo Yi Hop Road in Kwai Chung and Sun On Street in Chai Wan. They built

an industrial building with over 10 stories on each parcel. In the 1970s, there was a boom in the market for industrial buildings; they consequently received a good return on this investment. Later, they built more Koon Wah Mirror industrial buildings in Kwai Chung, Kwun Tong and Tuen Mun, along with their company headquarter in Yuen Shun Circuit, Yuen Chau Kok, Shatin. Observing the rapid development of the local stock market during this boom period, the Hui brothers foresaw that Hong Kong would soon become an international financial hub. They subsequently invested capital to bid for land and build commercial buildings such as Mirror Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui East, Cheong Tai Building and Hamilton Commercial Building in Mongkok, Nathan Tower in Yau Ma Tei, and Trade Square in Cheung Sha Wan. Also, they acquired retail shops in prime locations, including several units sold by Standard Chartered Bank in 1992, a shop on Fu Yan Street in Kwun Tong, and four connected shops at Park Lane Shopper's Boulevard, Tsim Sha Tsui, and this generated considerable rental income for the Group.

To date, the Hui family has invested in over 100 properties and occupies a prime market position. With property prices steadily rising since the 1970s, the assets they bought then have now become highly valuable. With their good vision and judgement, they have made tremendous gains. The Hui brothers were decisive in business. They were also very courteous and humble. They lived a frugal and self-disciplined life, treating others well, and paying particular attention to the welfare of their employees. The Hui brothers spent time with their colleagues and during festive seasons they presented gifts and served festive food to them, earning great respect from their staff. Given the brothers' respect for the happiness and well-

being of people as a whole, it is no surprise that the business of Koon Wah Mirror Factory grew correspondingly well.

While pursuing career success in Hong Kong, the Hui brothers never forgot where they originally came from. In their return to the hometown of Dali in 1980, they found that the school facilities there were old and run-down. They immediately donated money to rebuild them. From then, the Hui brothers made donations to build modern schools, kindergartens, parks, roads, water supply facilities and sewers in their hometown. In 2007, the setting up of 'Hui Hoy & Chow Sin Lan Charity Fund' provided support to establish a new facility at Dali Hospital, which gave local residents the opportunity to seek medical advice to and save time and money. Over several decades, the Hui brothers donated nearly RMB100 millions to benefit citizens of the town, sponsoring projects from school building and water source decontamination to medical facility construction. All these efforts have improved the quality of life for the town tremendously. Their contributions to the town have been far reaching, and the citizens of Dali are truly grateful to them. To recognise the outstanding contribution that the Hui brothers gave to Dali, the Nanhai government bestowed on Mr Hui Hoy and Mr Hui Ming the title of Honorary Citizen of Nanhai.

Mr Hui Ming has extended strong support to CUHK. Several donations were made to our Faculty of Medicine and Department of Geography and Resource Management in support of teaching and research. Mr Hui also funded the Faculty's Institute of Digestive Disease to strengthen its research on cancer treatments and support academic exchange. The teachers and students of CUHK are truly indebted to his contribution.

Today, let us acknowledge this modest, benevolent and venerable man, a wise entrepreneur who has made remarkable contributions to the mirror industry, a philanthropist who has given selfless devotion to his hometown and furthered education in Hong Kong. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Hui Ming for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.