

# Honorary Fellow A Citation

## Dr TAN Siu-lin

An unbounded mind standing atop a mountain. A kind-hearted person looking like Buddha. A contemporary Confucian entrepreneur caring about his country.

Dr Tan Siu-lin is the founder and Chairman of Luen Thai Group and an outstanding and well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Dr Tan was born in Quanzhou, Fujian in 1930. His family emigrated to the Philippines in 1948, where he continued his studies while working part-time at his father's clothing supplies shop. Unfortunately, there was a fire at his father's shop which burned down, along with all his family's valuables. His father was devastated and passed away soon after. But Dr Tan was undaunted and persevered with tremendous resilience in the face of these drastic upheavals. He kept working hard and overcame all obstacles. This is the story of a successful entrepreneur.

In 1965, Dr Tan founded the Luen Thai Shipping and Trading Company, specialising in shipping and the import and export trade in the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and Japan. In 1972, he moved to Guam with his family. The business of Luen Thai Group expanded from a shipping and trading firm to a global conglomerate, operating a diverse range of businesses that included garments, film and real estate. In 1984, he returned to his hometown in Quanzhou, where he founded enterprises such as Luen Thai Garment Co. Limited, which was expanded to 16 cities in mainland China, including Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. In 1985, Luen Thai Group further expanded its business from the South Pacific islands to Saipan, the U.S. commonwealth where Dr Tan's business's achievement earned him

the title of 'the King of Saipan'. Luen Thai Group, the company that Dr Tan founded, now has a global presence across Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China, Southeast Asia, North America, Europe and the Western Pacific region. Its businesses cover a wide range of industries – garments, fisheries, real estate, cargo aviation, shipping, logistics, construction materials, finance, insurance, hotel, tourism, rubber, and more. Dr Tan believes in the Confucian idea of 'integrity and diligence', and the principles of 'treating others with sincerity', 'disciplining oneself to trust', 'making up for deficiency' and 'striving with determination'. He has integrated these principles not only into his business's philosophy, but also his treatment of family and friends.

Dr Tan embraces the principle of 'Giving back what society has given us'. He has generously contributed to his hometown, society, and country. In 1985, he founded the Tan Siu Lin Family Charity Foundation in Quanzhou to support education and medical services, and provide relief for the poor and disabled. Dr Tan subsequently founded the Tan Siu Lin Foundation in Hong Kong, Saipan, Guam, and Quanzhou to advance educational, medical, and charity work in society. He also actively advocates Dr Sun Yat-sen's ideology that 'the world is for all', and has spared no effort to promote a peaceful unification of mainland China and Taiwan.

In Hong Kong, Dr Tan served as a director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) for several years. He established the 'TWGHs Dr Tan Siu Lin Charitable Fund', to support Chinese medicine, recreational and cultural training courses, and overseas competitions. He also set up an endowment fund and a complimentary Chinese medicine perpetual fund for free Chinese medicine

consultation services at CUHK and the Baptist University of Hong Kong, to nurture talents and provide medical services. In the social, cultural and educational efforts involving Dr Tan, special emphasis is placed on two specific areas. The first is to promote and commemorate Dr Sun Yat-sen's outstanding contributions towards the Chinese nation. For this, Dr Tan set up the Sun Yat-sen Education and Charity Foundation to advance Dr Sun's ideology through numerous academic events such as exhibitions and seminars across the Taiwan Strait. He also established the Sun Yat-sen International Research Centre in Peking University in 1998 to further advance Dr Sun's nationalism. In 2009, he set up the Zhongshan Pearl Class at his alma mater, Quanzhou First Secondary School, to support the unprivileged high school students with good academic grades and conduct in getting to university. In 2014, he supported the building of a pavilion and sculpture in Quanzhou's Zhongshan Park in commemoration of Dr Sun.

Dr Tan's Tan Siu Lin Foundation also gives tremendous support to local sport. Not only does the Foundation sponsor the Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong), it also helps people in custody and drug rehabilitees to reintegrate into society through participation in football training.

As well as serving Hong Kong, Dr Tan has dedicated himself to various educational and community causes in Guam, Saipan, and Micronesia. In addition to cultivating talents and contributing to local communities, he has been actively promoting Chinese culture to unite the Chinese communities. He founded the Chinese Association of Saipan, U.S.A., and serves as its Honorary President. He initiated the idea of having a Chinese Association Building, a Chinese park

and Chinese schools in Guam. Dr Tan's generous support and donations to various parts of the Western Pacific have won him the tremendous respect and admiration of local governments and citizens. In 1986, he received a Doctor of Laws degree *honoris causa* from the University of Guam, and is now serving as Honorary Consul of The Federated States of Micronesia in Hong Kong. Dr Tan received the Silver Bauhinia Star last year in recognition of his contributions to educational affairs and the whole community.

Dr Tan Siu-lin has been dedicated to serving society and encouraging education and he is a peace-lover who also cares for his community. He is not just a key business leader but also a pillar of our society. In recognition of the enormous social, cultural, and educational contribution he has made over the decades, especially his support of and donations to our Shaw College, Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Dr Tan Siu-lin for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.