

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### Ms Cheung Man Yee, SBS

In March 2002, Ms Cheung Man Yee, who had had a distinguished career at Radio Television Hong Kong, retired after a highly successful tour as the Principal Hong Kong Economic and Trade Representative in Tokyo, bringing to a perfect conclusion a three-decade Civil Service career that is said to be “as bright as the stars, as pure as a reflective pond”.

Ms Cheung Man Yee is an outstanding alumna of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. While an undergraduate at the English Department of Chung Chi College to which she was admitted in 1964, Ms Cheung undertook the translation of foreign television serials for the then RTV channel, an experience which provided her with a first glimpse of the broadcasting industry, and anticipated a brilliant, lifelong career in the days to come. She graduated in 1968 and served in both government and commercial television stations. In 1972 she joined Radio Television Hong Kong as a Programme Officer and produced series that have become household names, such as *Under the Lion Rock*, *Sunrise Sunset* and *Youth Forum*. In 1981 she was promoted to be Controller of Broadcasting Services (Radio), a position which gave her command of five Chinese and English language stations. In 1983 and 1984 respectively she was elevated to Assistant Director of Broadcasting and then Deputy Director of Broadcasting. Between 1983 and 1986, when the future of Hong Kong was the subject of negotiations between Britain and China, she was seconded to the Information Services Department, where she was Director from 1985 to 1986. Then, in January 1986, Ms Cheung was presented with a new appointment as the first Chinese to be the Director of Broadcasting. Under the most capable leadership of Ms Cheung, local broadcasting and television professionals experienced fruitful interaction with their international counterparts and RTHK progressed from strength to strength, full of innovations and demonstrating brilliant and varied colours as the station followed an enlightened and well-structured mode of operation. At the same time the broadcasting industry in Hong Kong came to enjoy an unparalleled reputation among our Asian neighbours, and the foresight and hard work of Ms Cheung was the driving force behind all these achievements. In 1988 Ms Cheung was elected as the President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, being the first woman, and the first broadcaster from the Asia Pacific region, to be thus honoured.

Ms Cheung handles her business in a determined and principled manner, and has courageously defended journalistic freedom throughout her career. She is greatly admired and praised for fearing no difficulty and deferring to no potentates, and her timely and resolute decisions have resulted in many achievements that would have been impossible if placed in lesser hands. In 1997, when China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, RTHK was entrusted with the daunting task of recording all the momentous historical events that occurred during the three days of ceremonies and events on film, for dissemination to various parts of the world through CCTV, BBC, and CNN. It would be impossible to estimate the resources and manpower deployed for this immense project. Ms Cheung coordinated the efforts



of TVB, ATV and Cable Television well in advance and, on the eve of the handover ceremony, personally took charge of the 1,500 performers and technical personnel at the various venues, sparing no details while making sure that everything would go according to plan. As everyone was moved by the magnificence of the ceremonies and the grandeur of the fireworks, very few would know that these had much to do with the person behind the scene, who orchestrated everything with consummate professional skill.

Ms Cheung is known for the generosity of her personality and the breadth of her mind. She has a fine ability to develop the potential of those who work for her, being stern or gentle as befits the occasion. In a career spanning over three decades she holds steadfastly to her mission, always courteous to her subordinates and never indulgent with her superiors. She has thus won the heartfelt respect of colleagues and an extensive circle of loyal friends all over the world. Now that she has retired from the Civil Service we would expect her to embark soon on another brilliant chapter in a wonderfully colourful career.

Ms Cheung is a staunch supporter of welfare services and cultural activities. She was elected an Outstanding Youth of Hong Kong in 1980, and presented with the Silver Bauhinia Star for services to the Special Administrative Region in 2002.

Ms Cheung has maintained close links with the Chinese University since graduation in 1968 and Chung Chi College in particular. She supports the development plan of the College and the University with enthusiasm, and has benefited the *alma mater* with her time and wise counsel in various projects and schemes. Mr Vice-Chancellor, it is on account of her achievements and contribution to the University that I present Ms Cheung Man Yee for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.