

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Lee Fei, MBE

Mr Lee Fei, who styles himself as Kai-man, is an outstanding industrialist in Hong Kong. In his youth he attended the Faculty of Engineering of Fudan University in Shanghai and, upon obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Civil Engineering, immediately joined the Ministry of Railways where he was posted to construction works of the Xuanshe section of the new Beijing-Jiangxi line. He participated enthusiastically in all the surveying and construction works involved in the project. Later, at the invitation of Mr Lee Kuo-wei, Mr Lee Fei took up an appointment at a textile factory in Hankou, and travelled to England to undertake training in the use of modern textile machinery and manufacturing techniques at Tweedales and Smalley Limited in Lancashire. He returned to China in 1939, by which time Hankou was already taken over by Japanese invasion forces, and his factory, with all its machinery and production lines, had been moved to Zhongqing in Sichuan and Baoji in Shaanxi. Mr Lee thus journeyed to Baoji where he helped to build the largest underground textile factory in China at the time. This factory was twice attacked by enemy bombers, and hit by over a hundred bombs weighing 150 to 300 pounds. However, both the production machinery and the employees remained unscathed, a fact which would give proof to Mr Lee's foresight in seeking subterranean refuge for his factory.

Mr Lee's textile factory moved to Hong Kong in 1948, and the Kowloon Textile Industry Limited came to be founded in Sham Tseng. Over the decades the textile industry took root, grew and flourished in Hong Kong, and Mr Lee was among those who witnessed the transformation of the Hong Kong economy and the advent of a bright new era. It was a time when Hong Kong was developing into a truly international centre of textile manufacturing, and Mr Lee's part in this development was very significant indeed.

In 1997, the decision was taken to close down Kowloon Textile Industry Limited in the light of changing times and circumstances. While capitals, interests and profits were offered in full to all share-holders, the company also wanted to make a donation to an educational cause to commemorate its founders, Mr Lee Kuo-wei and Mr Lee Mou, in the name of Lee Shihlun Tang. Mr Lee Fei, as representative of Lee Shihlun Tang, discussed his company's intention with Professor Ma Lin, former Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University. At the suggestion of Professor Ma, Mr Lee decided to make a substantial cash donation as well as a gift to Shaw College of one storey of an industrial building.

Since its foundation in 1986, Shaw College has been striving to live up to its motto, "Xiude Jiangxue" (修德講學). The motto is derived from Book VII of the *The Analects of Confucius*, in which Confucius says: "It is these things that cause me concern: failure to cultivate virtue; failure to go more deeply into what I have learnt; inability, when I am told what is right, to go over to where it is; and inability to reform myself when I have defects." The College motto contains



the essence of the Confucian dictum. The cultivation of virtue and the education of the young, however, is a long and gradual process, and students need an environment that is conducive to academic studies, in which they may encourage each other in their pursuit of learning and quest for knowledge. The munificence of Lee Shihlun Tang has enabled many students to enjoy a comfortable and colourful campus life, to the great benefit of their intellectual growth.

As Professor Yeung Yue Man, Head of Shaw College, rightly pointed out at the Matriculation Ceremony in 1999, "For Hong Kong to sustain or even improve its competitiveness, quality manpower is one of the essential factors. The development of manpower depends on a sound, healthy education system which provides training to young people at all stages from pre-school to university." Mr Lee Fei, who shares this emphasis on quality manpower, has always been an enthusiastic supporter of education and training. As the idiom goes, "To plan for a year, one may plant crops, to plan for a decade, one may plant trees, to plan for a lifetime, one must seek education." While Mr Lee was burdened with the operation of a large textile company, he was always concerned with the provision of manpower training for the industry. Many years ago he served as the Chairman of the precursor of the Vocational Training Council, in which capacity he made a valuable contribution to the development of human resources for Hong Kong industries.

To recognize the generosity of Mr Lee Fei and as a token of appreciation to Mr Lee Kuo-wei and Mr Lee Mou, Shaw College has named Student Hostel I on its campus the Kuo Mou Hall, marking its gratitude to the Lee Shihlun Tang.

Mr Lee Fei is a gentleman renowned for his business acumen and fine personality. He is always courteous to others, and greatly respected for his upright character and unblemished morals. The generous gift of Lee Shihlun Tang will have a tremendously beneficial effect on the future development of Shaw College and will be gratefully remembered by successive generations of students as a valuable contribution to education, society and the nation. For this, Mr Vice-Chancellor, I present Mr Lee Fei for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.