

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Lee Ming Kwai, Dick

Mr Lee Ming Kwai, Dick is a distinguished alumnus of New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. During his undergraduate days he came to be profoundly inspired by the New Asia spirit, best captured in the College Anthem: *"I pursue my way with redoubled vigour amidst adversities, and my compassion grows as I encounter frustrations. I shoulder whatever burden that comes my way and, in my youth, comradeship urges me on."* The stirring lines of the Anthem have no doubt been a source of great inspiration to the young Mr Lee. Mr Lee Ming Kwai, Dick graduated from the Department of History in 1972 and joined the Police Force as a Probationary Inspector. A career with the Police demands a strong sense of corporate cooperation and discipline, and this fits in well with the upright character and the preference for camaraderie that are typical of young people. Thus began Dick Lee's association with the Police Force which has lasted over three decades.

Mr Lee had an extensive tour of duties upon joining the Force, and went through many postings for junior Police officers, both in criminal investigation and uniform service. He is conversant with the joys and sorrows of Police life through personal experience gained at the fundamental level. And, since life in Hong Kong is closely linked to the Police Force, which is in itself an enormous enterprise encompassing myriad disciplines and services, a Police officer must be someone endowed with a gift for sound management and the will to eradicate vices. Whatever position he is in, he must be endowed with professional knowledge, which is gradually enriched as his experience builds up. When an officer is engaged in tactical duties, he faces even greater trials of his courage and stamina. Dangers and crises occur around the clock and the officers, in discharging their duties, depend on each other for operational success as well as their personal safety. Thus there is this great respect for comradeship and camaraderie in the Police Force which is seldom observed in civilian communities. Mr Lee is keenly aware of this and places great emphasis on Force morale. He personally attends to its every aspect, whether that be a matter of community-wide concern, or the problem of an individual officer.

As his career develops and his work becomes more diversified, Mr Lee assiduously seeks to improve his learning and knowledge. In 1985 he attended the special one-year course for the Administrative Grade at Oxford University, where he specialized in Criminal Law, Criminology, Modern History and International Relations. He had made extensive visits including coal mines, headquarters of the European Union and the United Nations organization in Geneva which helped to enlarge his scope and broaden his perspective. Between 1990 and 1992 he was a directing staff at the National Police Staff College in the United Kingdom, where he taught officers at the rank of the Chief Inspectorate. Through interaction with his students he also learnt about the operation of the British constabulary. Upon return to Hong Kong he was District Commander of Wanchai from 1992 to 1994, and the Deputy Regional Commander of New Territories North from 1994 to 1995.

Mr Lee was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations) in 1995, a post he held until 1998. With this posting came the biggest test Mr Lee has yet experienced in his Police



career. The return of Hong Kong to China on 1st July 1997 was an unprecedented historical event that drew the attention of the world. To celebrate the occasion over 200 activities of enormous dimensions took place one after another in the presence of national leaders and political dignitaries from over 60 countries. There was absolutely no allowance for mishaps or mistakes in these activities and in the handling of the accompanying protests from some quarters, and there was tremendous pressure on the officer taking overall security responsibility. To mark the transfer, a planning and operation group of eight senior officers was headed by Mr Lee to coordinate all security matters and VIP protection for the State Ceremonies. The subsequent annual conference of the International Monetary Fund was successfully held following meticulously drawn up plans and their efficient and effective execution. In 1998, Mr Lee was promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, and took command as Director of Management Services and Director of Operations. In January 2001 he was elevated to the rank of Deputy Commissioner of Police, taking up positions as Deputy Commissioner (Management) and then Deputy Commissioner (Operations) and covering the whole spectrum of the management and operations of the entire Force. In 2003 Mr Lee, with his profound understanding of Police affairs in Hong Kong, was appointed Commissioner of Police.

Mr Lee acknowledges the benefit of the major in History that he pursued while a student at the Chinese University. History is a discipline in which past experience is summarized for the benefit of people who live in the present. The historian's tenacious search for evidence has also been an inspiration to him. In addition, a university education chiefly consists of developing a student's ability to conduct himself and interact with the world, and Mr Lee is convinced of the relevance of the *via media* to life, and that a balance has to be struck in all things. And, as a Police officer, his conviction is that the law must always come first, providing a reasonable framework for all matters. Consideration may then be given to the human factors involved only after these two primary conditions have been met.

Mr Lee is well known for his ability to identify talents and put them in the appropriate positions, and for his readiness to take the lead and set examples for his subordinates. For these reasons he is greatly admired and loved by his officers. He is interested in music and sports, and he prefers a simple life, shunning superfluous luxury.

Mr Lee has been decorated many times during his 32 years with the Police Force. Major commendations and honours awarded to him include the Chief Executive's Commendation for Government Service, the Queen's Police Medal, the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service and the Hong Kong Police Long Service Medal.

Since his graduation in 1972, Mr Lee has maintained close links with New Asia College. He has been a staunch supporter of the Mentorship Programme of the College through which he shares generously his knowledge and experience with students. He officiated as guest of honour at the 52nd Graduation Ceremony of the College. The College management has also benefited from his wise counsels from time to time. Mr Chairman, in consideration of his distinguished service in the Hong Kong Police Force and his ardent support for the University over the years, I present Mr Lee Ming Kwai, Dick for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.