

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Li Fook Hing, OBE, SB, MS, FRINA

It is a blessing to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth, and it takes personal endeavour to turn that silver spoon into a gold one. However, it is the highest form of endeavour, achieved only by the wise and the benevolent, to be able to resolutely serve mankind and help the helpless with that spoon of gold. Mr Li Fook Hing was born into a respectable family in Hong Kong and has a distinguished career of his own. Despite the gold and silver spoons that he has, he has remained a modest and humble man. All his life he has served the Church and the community well, and is greatly admired as a devout Christian and a passionate philanthropist.

Mr Li came from a distinguished family. His father was the late business magnate Mr Li Koon Chun. Mr Li Fook Hing, brought up under his father's tutelage, went to the United States in 1941 to read naval architecture and marine engineering, and earned his bachelor's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree from the University of Michigan. After the War he proceeded to shipyards in Scotland for practical experience. He returned to Hong Kong in 1948 and took up an engineering position at the Taikoo Dockyard, where he was later promoted to General Manager and put in charge of ship-building projects. In 1966 he joined the family business to which he devoted much of his time and energy. He was also involved in the shipping business, and was an avid participant in stock investment and real estate development.

An enthusiastic supporter of the work of the Church, Mr Li was the Treasurer of the Sheng Kung Hui Diocese of Hong Kong and Macau for 24 years. He was a member of the Council of St John's Cathedral for 29 years, and a trustee of the Cathedral for 15 years. In 1961, he took up the helm at the planning and construction of St Basil's Technical School, St Basil's Primary School, and the Sheng Kung Hui Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School at the invitation of the late Bishop Ronald Hall. He sat on the councils of St Mark's School and St Benedict's Secondary Technical School, and in 1996 endowed the Sheng Kung Hui Li Fook Hing Secondary School in Chai Wan, helping to provide quality educational opportunities to students in the eastern part of Hong Kong Island.

Mr Li's community service has emphasized education and medical care. His benevolence is manifest in over 30 years of active participation in medical services in Hong Kong, during which he was a member of Hospital Governing Committee of the United Christian Hospital and actively involved in the Hospital's expansion programmes. He was among the initiators of the construction projects for the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and the Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital in Taipo. He still sits on the governing committees of these three hospitals, playing a hands-on role in the provision of community medical services of a high standard.



Mr Li Fook Hing has a long association with The Chinese University of Hong Kong, having served as a member of the Board of Governors (later Trustees) of Chung Chi College for 36 years and as its Chairman from 1981 to 1987. His chairmanship was characterised by foresight and long-term planning for the College's development. He assumed a significant part in the launch of the Siu Tao Fung Shan Project, which over the years has raised substantial funds for various multi-disciplinary education projects in the College, offering comprehensive training and leadership development courses to its students. He has also endowed a number of scholarships to the Chinese University supporting both local and Mainland students in their studies.

Early on in his career Mr Li had been engaged in marine engineering and the shipping business, before he turned to commercial activities. Navigation, however, has always been a part of his life and his favourite recreation. After a busy working week he will take to the sea and participate in various boating tournaments, a pastime that he has pursued with keen interest for several decades. He designed his own yacht, which he aptly named Tru-luv. He is also a photographer and a painter, and in both has studied under famous masters. He ranked fourth in the world in terms of number of his pictures on display in International Salon exhibitions, and specialises in oil portraits which he often reproduces as greeting cards to relatives and friends. He has also done paintings of the yachts he designed, thus combining his two best-loved hobbies in the same brushstrokes. In more recent years he has turned his attention to creating abstract paintings through computer-aided media. Mr Li is now in his 81st year and, despite his age, enjoys health to be proud of. He swims 1,500 meters every day and allows himself only 50 minutes to complete the exercise, beyond which he will reproach himself for not doing better. Sincerity and trust are the two guiding principles in the way he interacts with others, and he abides by the teachings of the Bible. The Bible states that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and Mr Li's given Chinese name literally means "blessing" and "celebration". "Celebration" follows the performance of charitable deeds, and "blessings" multiply with the accumulation of acts of benevolence. Mr Chairman, in consideration of his generous givings to charity and community causes, and his magnanimous contributions to this University, I present Mr Li Fook Hing for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.