

# Dr Kwok Pik-lin Barbara

## Honorary Fellow

### Citation



The Chinese character *jì* has its origin from the ancient River Ji (in northeastern China), but its meaning was later extended to 'crossing a river'. The expression *tóng zhōu gòng jì* (or crossing the river sharing the same boat) as appeared in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* has exactly this meaning. Besides its literal interpretation, the expression is used as a metaphor to illustrate 'unity and mutual assistance'. Thus, the term 'sharing the same boat' could further be elaborated to mean 'to help each other'. In *Baopuzi* by Ge Hong, a Taoist master of the Eastern Jin dynasty, there is a phrase *jīng shì jì sù zhī lüè*, which denotes 'the strategies of governing the nation and providing for the people'. This phrase suggests that the principal purpose of governing a nation well is to enable the people to live a comfortable life. In the 19th century, Japanese scholars borrowed the Chinese characters *jīng jì* as the translated term for the English word 'economy', thus making *jīng jì* an important concept in the social science disciplines. Since then, *jīng jì* has adopted a new, and much wider, socio-economic perspective. Dr Kwok Pik-lin Barbara, an economics graduate of this University, has developed a deep understanding of the old maxim of 'unity and mutual assistance'. With endless benevolence and a genuine concern for society, she has made remarkable contributions to the financial services industry of Hong Kong and the country. Her remarkable achievements and selfless contributions have set a model for many to follow.

Dr Kwok completed her undergraduate studies at Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where she earned a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) degree in economics. Upon graduation, she embarked on a successful career in the financial services industry, specialising in areas such as the stock market, London Gold (spot gold contracts

settled in London) and insurance, among others. Dr Kwok has obtained accounting qualifications from the UK, Canada, China, and the US. In addition to her professional commitments, she pursued further education at the Department of Computing at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, where she earned a Master of Science degree. Driven by her passion for wider exposure in the financial fields, she pursued doctoral studies at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, leading to the award of a Doctoral degree in Finance. A certified public accountant and a certified tax advisor in Hong Kong, Dr Kwok also holds directorship in several limited companies and non-profit organisations, contributing her leadership and management capabilities to these establishments. Drawing upon her wealth of professional knowledge and experience, she effortlessly translates classroom theories into practical applications, bringing significant benefits to the industry she serves. Beyond her professional endeavours, Dr Kwok is deeply engaged in selfless and altruistic community work. Her unwavering kindness and dedication at work establish her as a shining model of excellence, inspiring others to emulate her remarkable achievements.

Dr Kwok's care and concern for her alma mater is truly noteworthy. Over the years, she has made generous donations

to support the development of the University. Her contributions include establishing endowments for scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships, as well as providing funds for research projects and exchange programmes. Examples of the units and development projects at the University level that benefited from her support include: CUHK Hong Kong Institute of Integrative Medicine; Dr Barbara Kwok Young Postdoctoral Researcher Travel Grants; CUHK Alumni Torch Fund; and Outstanding Academic Awards for Students of the Chinese Medicine Programme. Specifically, the Alumni Torch Fund is used to support various on-campus programmes, including the Minor Programme in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, CUHK Institute of Future Cities project, Distinguished Alumni-in-Residence Programme, CUHK Alumni Charity Foundation, CUHK Entrepreneurship Competition, and various initiatives by the I-CARE Centre for Whole-person Development, Act together against COVID-19 project, and Sunshine at CUHK project. Dr Kwok also gave donations in support of a number of CUHK projects: CUHK Medical Centre (for procurement of equipment); Sir Run Run Shaw Hall (for installation of a digital projection system), Alumni Associations Centre (for renovation works), and countless others. Once a student affiliated with Chung Chi College, she has steadfastly made

donations to support various good causes of the College, including supporting the College's scholarship and bursary schemes, student exchange programmes and the construction of a student activities centre. CUHK takes great pride in, and expresses deep gratitude for, the tremendous support Dr Kwok has kindly provided to both staff and students throughout the past decades.

Besides support, financial or otherwise, for CUHK projects in Hong Kong, Dr Kwok also champions a variety of good causes of the University in the Greater Bay Area. She is the chairperson of CUHK GBA Alumni Association and member of the Planning Committee for the Setting up of Colleges at CUHK-Shenzhen. She has also actively participated in the work of the CUHK Convocation, including serving as the Convenor of its Innovation and Entrepreneurship Working Group, and participating in the planning and executing of, and raising funds supporting, a number of activities organised by the Convocation. Besides, she once served as member of the CUHK Council, convenor of the Executive Committee of the CUHK Alumni Torch Fund, instructor of the CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute InnoHub, and many other similar posts as well. Particularly noteworthy is that Dr Kwok has been serving as one of the mentors in the CCC Mentorship Programme since 2004. This year marks the 20th anniversary

of her distinguished service. Under her mentorship, students not only expand their knowledge but also gain exposure to a multitude of career paths awaiting their exploration. Her unwavering dedication and kindness serve as a remarkable example for, and inadvertently instilling positive graduate attributes in, students. These attributes propel students' personal and professional growth, ultimately benefiting not just the students themselves but also society as a whole. She once expressed that her support for the younger generation is rooted in the cherished memories she has from her time at CCC. She recalled, 'As a student then, I had the privilege and good fortune of following a group of distinguished professors who treated students as if they were their own children. These outstanding teachers include Professor Yung Kung-hing, the former head of the Department of Biology, the world-renowned botanist Professor Hu Shiu-ying, and Professor Victor Mok Hoi of the Department of Economics. Studying under their mentorship proved to be a life-changing experience for me. Their influence has prompted me to plough what I earned back to society and my alma mater.' It is obvious that the campus life at CUHK has served as a cradle of success for its students. A vivid example is Dr Kwok has, through her good deeds, continued to pass the torch of compassion, honesty, integrity and servant leadership on to many followers on campus.

Exemplifying the spirit of social concern that we all hold dear, Dr Kwok is indeed an exceptional role model for staff, students, and alumni.

Dr Kwok's contributions to both the Hong Kong community and the motherland serve as a testament to her genuine concern for the overall well-being of society. In the run-up to Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, Dr Kwok had begun embarking on a northbound journey across the border, working with mainland professionals to transfer overseas professional knowledge to the motherland. She also joined hands with Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou in co-organising accounting courses to nurture talents in the field. During her spare time, she also actively engaged in projects involving poverty alleviation and supporting needy students on the mainland. Since 2004, she has established scholarships for financially needy undergraduates with outstanding conduct and academic results under School of Business at Sun Yat-sen University. To recognise her benefaction, the university honoured her in 2024 with the University Yixian Education Contribution Award. As her business on the mainland continued to flourish, its operation had made important contributions to the financial service industry, thus indirectly contributing to the nation's advancement. On account of her magnificent accomplishments,

she was invited to serve in a number of civic organisations: Founding President and Council Member of the Association of Sino Enterprises Promotion, Hong Kong Delegate of the Shenzhen Women's Federation, Honorary President of the All-China Women's Federation Hong Kong Delegates Association, Permanent Honorary President of the South China Athletic Association, and Life Honorary Committee member of the Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters' Association, just to name a few.

During her time at Chung Chi College, the young Dr Kwok was affiliated with Zhēn Society, a class society to which Dr Kwok was affiliated. The Chinese character *zhēn* represents the concept of 'achieving perfection'. The mission of this society is thus to inspire students to pursue excellence not only in studies but also in all aspects of life. In the anthem of Chung Chi College, there is a line *jì jì jīng yīng*, which means 'a collection of exceptionally talented individuals'. Throughout Chung Chi College and the broader campus, Dr Kwok and many others embody this group of truly outstanding individuals. They not only strive for academic excellence but also wholeheartedly embrace the intellectually stimulating environment nestled in the alluring Tolo Harbour. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present Dr Kwok Pik-lin Barbara for an Honorary Fellowship of the University.