

Mrs Joy Lo Cheung

Honorary Fellow Citation



A soybean is among the smallest seeds a farmer can plant. Partnered with the right hands and soil, it becomes a harvest that sustains millions of families across generations. If we extend this metaphor to the world of philanthropy, the same is true of good deeds. A well-designed programme, large or small, if run wisely and sustained over years, can subtly yet profoundly reshape the contours of a community.

The philanthropist the University recognises today, Mrs Joy Lo Cheung (hereafter Ms Lo), embodies the principle of trans-generational sowing and reaping. As a third-generation steward of her family's legacy, Ms Lo combines her grandfather's entrepreneurial acumen and philanthropic generosity into what she calls "entrepreneurial giving", or social innovation with evidence-based impact.

The late Dr Lo Kwee-seong was born in Meixian, Guangdong, in 1910 and founded Vitasoy in 1940. He envisioned soybean as "the cow of China". He produced a nutritious soymilk drink, named it "Vitasoy", and offered it affordably to ordinary families. Driven by the same compassion and pragmatism, he built vocational schools to educate children and equip workers with livelihoods. Sharing her grandfather's values, Ms Lo has evolved Vitasoy's vision: to sow hope, change lives, and pay it forward, with professional discipline.

In September 2019, Ms Lo joined the Lo Kwee Seong Foundation's Donations Committee alongside three other members of the family's third generation. Together, they guided the Foundation into a new chapter of more structured, strategic and impact-led philanthropy. Ms Lo calls this shift

“entrepreneurial giving” – approaching philanthropy with the rigour of business. They identify genuine needs, pilot programmes with potential to generate systemic community outcomes, and measure impact through social return on investment. In September 2025, in recognition of all she had built since 2019, Ms Lo was appointed Chairwoman of the Foundation.

Under Ms Lo's stewardship, the Foundation's work spans six interrelated commitments: art and museums; education; training and future careers; entrepreneurship; scientific research; and underserved communities. Across these, the mission is singular – equipping young people with the mindsets and pathways for catalytic life impact.

SEE Jobs at the Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired has, over the past five years, placed more than one hundred visually impaired graduates into real careers. Christian Action's Go Digital Career Programme upskills young people for pivots into the digital economy. M+ Educators trains docents to help visitors foster deeper connections with contemporary visual culture. The Light Be social-mobility housing initiative repurposes vacant buildings into upward-mobility homes for Hong Kong families. In addition, the vocational school

built by Ms Lo's grandfather in Meixian in 1993 continues to equip young people with livelihoods. What unites these efforts is a systematic method: to identify a real need, find the right partner, measure the outcomes, and evaluate impact-based evidence.

The Foundation's institutional partnership with this University began in 2002 and has, under Ms Lo's stewardship, deepened across agricultural science, biomedical research and the arts.

Through the Lo Kwee-Seong Biomedical Research Fund, the Centre for Soybean Research at the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology has evolved from a localised study into a national leading hub for soybean genomic research. Its climate-resilient varieties are now in the hands of farmers in Northwest China, South Africa, and South Asia, helping to increase food security, restore soil and improve nutrition, contributing to the Chinese Mainland's soybean self-sufficiency.

In addition, through the Foundation's funding of the Lo Kwee-Seong Integrated Biomedical Sciences Building, researchers have achieved pioneering advances in cancer diagnostics, immune-oncology and regenerative medicine.

In 2025 the Lo Kwee Seong Pavilion at the Art

Museum was honoured with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects' Medal of the Year. It now serves as a centre for scholarship, training and the international projection of Chinese visual culture through multimedia and regional exhibitions. Its "Art Vitamins" programme nourishes the next generation, extending Vitasoy's mission into public cultural life.

Beyond the University, Ms Lo serves as Independent Manager of Hong Kong Management Association K S Lo College in Tin Shui Wai, a secondary school serving students from less privileged backgrounds. Over a period of twenty years, the Foundation-funded English Plus speaking programmes, coupled with the proactive learning of students, have upgraded the academic ranking of the school from Band 3 to Band 1.

Ms Lo's own passion for learning is evident through her choice to return to formal study mid-career. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, and in 2024, she completed the Kellogg-HKUST Executive MBA Programme, where she developed global leadership strategies and fostered new collaborative friendships. Today, she speaks at family legacy forums and mentors next-generation leaders. She is also an emerging voice on the future of

family philanthropy in Asia, sharing her own story in the hope of moving others to act.

Away from her public work, Ms Lo is an accomplished violinist who plays in ensemble with family and friends. She started learning the violin at the age of four and underwent more than a decade of professional music training, earning many accolades along the way. Yet her greatest fulfilment came through seeing her three teenaged children perform their own charity recital for Sham Shui Po residents during the pandemic. Her own recent performance, with students from the Ebenezer School & Home for the Visually Impaired, captured the joy of co-creation in live community.

For Ms Lo, music encapsulates her philosophy of giving. She says: "Philanthropy is never a solo performance. It calls for attentive listening, a willingness to adjust one's tempo, and at times, the grace to let others carry the melody."

Ms Lo's distinction lies in her steady embodiment of the principle that small seeds, well-chosen and nurtured over time, bloom into impactful lives and better communities. Acting kindly, paying it forward, and empowering others for good: that is a legacy worth passing on.

In recognition of her stewardship of the Lo Kwee Seong Foundation, her modernisation of

a Hong Kong family foundation into a leading practitioner of entrepreneurial giving, her deepening of the Foundation's partnership with this University across the sciences and the arts, and her service to the wider community, Mr Vice-Chancellor, it is my great pleasure to present Mrs Joy Lo Cheung for an Honorary Fellowship of the University.
