

A Citation for Mr Arthur Hinton

Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*



第 10 屆 畢 業 榮 典 禮

Mr Chairman of the Council,

I am honoured to present Mr Arthur Hinton, a most distinguished and admired educator who contributed the major part of his life work to Hong Kong.

Mr Arthur Hinton was born in England in 1920. During the Second World War, he served in Europe with the Quaker Ambulance Service. After the war, he attended Bristol University to train as a history teacher. Upon graduation, he was appointed to the Malayan Education Department, and taught in Johor Bahru for a few years. His wife's health necessitated a transfer, which brought him to Hong Kong where he remained for the rest of his professional career.

During nearly 30 years as a teacher and teacher educator in Hong Kong, Mr Hinton had a distinguished career first in the Education Department, then in academia. Not long after arrival in Hong Kong in 1953, he was made the first vice-principal of Queen Elizabeth School, the newest government secondary school located in the then semi-urbanised area of Mongkok; in 1959, he became the principal. Over more than a decade, he developed QES into what was often considered to be the best school in Hong Kong at the time, where the students, many from underprivileged families, distinguished themselves not only academically but also with a devotion to the service and welfare of the community. Many former pupils of the school in fact chose careers in education and social service over more lucrative or glamorous options, often attributing their choice to their beloved Mr Hinton's inspiration.

In 1967, Mr Hinton was promoted to head one of our Institute's predecessor colleges, the Northcote College of Education, then considered the most prominent of principalships within the Education Department. He was a significant leader of the teaching profession, during a time of transition when teacher training was settling down from the breakneck expansion of the early postwar decades into more qualitative developments. In the mid 1970s, he retired from the civil service, and joined the School of Education, CUHK, as Senior Lecturer for History Curriculum & Instruction. He again provided valuable leadership, not only in his own subject, but also in public debates on major topics of the time, such as medium of instruction, class size, universal secondary education, the Precious Blood Golden Jubilee School affair, and other issues. In the early 1980s, he retired from CUHK, and moved with his wife Hedy to her native Vienna (from which she had fled the Nazi Anschluss).

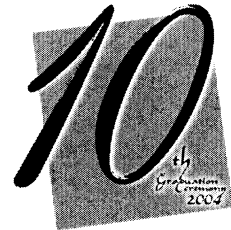
Mr Hinton's teaching career was characterised by dedication to his subject and commitment to humanistic values. His care and concern for his students was such that hundreds of them have remained his friends and admirers even after 50 years, as evinced by the very active QES past students' chapters in Hong Kong and around the world, which all respond enthusiastically to a visit from Mr Hinton. Beyond the school, his role as a leader in improving education and bettering society was also prominent. He consistently followed his conscience and his professional convictions, even at the cost of his career; e.g., an essay he wrote in the 1950s in support of mother tongue education in Hong Kong

secondary schools has been cited as a major reason why he was never made Director of Education, despite his evident ability, achievement and prestige. In the 1970s, he helped establish and led the Educators' Social Action Council (ESAC for short). ESAC was one of the earliest "pressure groups" which have contributed to Hong Kong's growth as a civil society; it was made up of well known teachers and youth workers, and published pamphlets and organised forums on social issues. This also earned him the suspicion as "trouble-maker" in certain quarters.

Mr Arthur Hinton has given to Hong Kong the best decades of his life as a dedicated teacher and as a conscientious, independent-minded and humane civil servant. His career reflected the many layered experiences of inequalities and compassion, of intolerance and cross-cultural empathy, that was so often manifested in Hong Kong in the 1950s to '70s. He is a great educator with firmly held pacifist and humanitarian convictions, as well as a warm and loving personality. The fact that he remains to this day a beloved friend of hundreds of his former students now living around the world, attests to his success as a teacher and a human being.

Our Institute in its 10th anniversary year cannot do better than to honour one of the great teachers of 20th-century Hong Kong. Mr Chairman, may I call upon you to confer on this distinguished educator the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

A Citation for Professor Sir William Taylor, CBE
Doctor of Education , *honoris causa*



第 10 屆 畢 業 典 禮

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to deliver here a citation for a most respected gentleman who has worked tirelessly over the last 50 years for the betterment of education as a whole and has had a remarkable influence not only in the education sector of the United Kingdom but also on The Hong Kong Institute of Education — Professor Sir William Taylor.

Sir William commenced his career as a teaching professional in 1953 and has since then fully committed to the study, research and review of different aspects in the field of education, amongst which both higher education and teacher education were two areas of highlight.

Sir William became involved in higher education in 1964 when he joined Oxford University as a lecturer in education and has since then held a number of very senior positions in higher education institutions in Britain, including Professor and Head of School of Education of the University of Bristol and the Director of the Institute of Education, University of London. When he retired in 1991, he was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull.

He was also called upon after his retirement to lead the re-engineering of two UK universities that ran into difficulties in 1994-95 and 1998-99 respectively. Under his able leadership, reforms were introduced and the crisis faced by the universities was subsequently turned into opportunities. Now, the two universities are operating on a solid foundation.

Between 1992 and 2000, he undertook a substantial number of institutional and quality reviews for universities in the UK and the Commonwealth. From 2000-2002, he chaired an influential group commissioned by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals in the UK to review 'Higher Education Funding'. The insightful observations and recommendations made in the subsequent Review Report have become an important basis for university funding in the UK. He was also a consultant on higher education to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and has served as the assessor on Strategic Planning and Governance to the Association of Commonwealth Universities. In brief, the outstanding achievements and leadership roles for Sir William are simply too many to recount within the space of a short citation.

At the age of 74, Sir William remains energetic and passionate, and continues as much as his health permits to serve the education community. He is currently the Interim Head of the Winchester School of Art, a visiting professor and a member of the Court of the University of Southampton, and the Chair of the Strategic Area Review of 16 plus education and training in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

As a teaching professional, Sir William has maintained a deep interest in and has contributed to immensely improve various aspects of teacher education. His role as a leading expert in teacher education is widely respected and reflected

in his chairing, for nine years, the Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). He was also the Chairman of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers and the Northern Ireland Teacher Education Committee.

In the fast-changing pace of the education sector both in Britain and here in Hong Kong, Sir William's insights and full understanding of the complexity of the relevant issues are truly inspiring and enlightening, as he has said earlier this year:-

'In teacher education, as in so many other fields of educational endeavour, there are neither quick fixes nor ultimate solutions. There is no single institutional or curriculum policy that, even if rigorously and vigorously pursued, will guarantee a supply of well-qualified, highly motivated, skilled and successful teachers. Rather, we are all engaged in a continuing conversation about the why, what and the how of teacher preparation. The language and temper of that conversation changes in response to external conditions; to new knowledge; to fresh demands on the schools; to altered economic, social and political priorities. It is a conversation more visible and with more participants at some times than at others.'

Sir William's academic and professional achievements have won him much respect in the education community. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by nineteen British Universities. He was awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1982 and knighted in 1990.

To academics and education professionals in the United Kingdom, Sir William is a celebrity, a renowned education adviser and an illustrious educationalist. To The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Sir William is more than a learned academic and administrator. He was the Panel Chairman of the Institute's first Institutional Review in 1996 commissioned by the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation. The professional advice given in the Institutional Review Report not only framed the development of Institute's first degree programmes and other infrastructures that supported the Institute's teaching and learning activities, but had also played a crucial role in bringing the Institute under the auspices of the University Grants Committee in 1996.

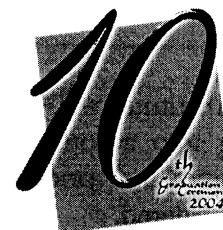
Sir William accepted the invitation of the Government to serve as a member of the Institute's governing Council in 1998 and had been a Council member and the Chairman of the Council's Professorial Appointments Committee until this April. Throughout the past six years with the Institute, Sir William had given his unfailing support and professional service to the Institute's Council and its Committees. He was more than willing to provide his valuable advice on different affairs of the Institute irrespective of how tight his schedule was or how complex the issues were. His views and advice were always timely, far-sighted, and pragmatic.

Notwithstanding his high social and academic standing, he is at all times sincere, open, humble, and caring. His refined manner and accommodating temperament make it a great pleasure to work or come into contact with him. I and those who have had the honour to work with him were certainly touched by his selfless devotion, genuine commitment and professionalism.

Mr Chairman, to honour a highly regarded scholar who has made outstanding contributions and accomplishments in education is itself an honour of the Institute. May I present to you Professor Sir William Taylor and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

A Citation for Dr Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, DBE, JP

Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*



第 10 屆畢業典禮

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is a great honour for me to deliver this citation for Dr Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, one of Hong Kong's most distinguished personalities in education, social services and politics. As the current chairperson of the Education Commission and long serving Executive Director of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, she is a pillar of strength in challenging times and a wonderful example to us all of total dedication to serving the community.

Dr Wong's enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to the welfare of others is deeply rooted in her family and schooling experiences. Indeed, she can readily identify the origins of these life-long commitments with her family, especially her mother who was a teacher, and the music and religious teachers who taught her at St Stephen's Girls' College. Their encouragement for undertaking volunteer work made a lasting impression on Dr Wong. The impact of teachers, especially in areas outside the formal academic curriculum, cannot be underestimated in the development of each and every one of us.

From these early volunteer experiences, Dr Wong confirmed her commitment to social work (working with youth in particular), graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from the University of Hong Kong in 1975. Driven by strong personal and professional motivations, she then completed master degrees at the University of Toronto (1979), the London School of Economics and Politics, University of London (1983) and the University of California (Davis) (1993). In 1997 she obtained her PhD in Sociology from the University of California (Davis). In addition, she has been the recipient of honorary doctoral degrees from a number of Hong Kong and overseas universities. Clearly these academic pursuits and awards reinforce and duly acknowledge her dedication to comprehensively understanding and helping resolve the complex interactions of culture, sub-cultures, families, peers, and individuals in an ever-changing social, economic and political environment.

Her other honours include being made a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 1997, a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1994, and an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1990. She is the recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award (1985) and is also a Justice of the Peace.

Dr Wong's deep, empathetic concern for Hong Kong youth is best exemplified in her role in the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. For almost thirty years she has committed herself to this organisation, being its Executive Director since 1980. Her philosophy is underpinned by optimism, trust, openness, respect and the need for life to be meaningful. Today the Federation is an internationally recognised, multifaceted organisation involved in research, leadership training, youth exchange, educational and neighbourhood services. There is no doubt in my mind that the current standing of the Federation is due to Dr Wong's enthusiasm and total commitment to the youth of Hong Kong.

Dr Wong's dedication and influence extends to other public service, including serving on the Hong Kong Legislative Council, the Hong Kong Executive Council and as chairperson of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Police and ICAC Complaints Committees, Commission on Youth and Social Welfare Advisory Committee. Dr Wong has served also on the Councils and Courts and been an adviser to a number of Hong Kong universities. She serves in a variety of capacities for numerous charitable and welfare organisations and is currently a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

As Chairperson of the Education Commission since 2001, Dr Wong has been charged with guiding the implementation of substantial educational reform, reform that is premised firmly on all-round development of students through life-long learning. The foci of these reforms are wide ranging across the whole spectrum from early childhood to higher and continuing education. The current work of the Commission in encouraging and prioritising the reforms is testimony to Dr Wong's abilities and capacity to monitor the pulse of education and bring people together for the betterment of Hong Kong. These are indeed challenging times in education and Dr Wong has risen to provide leadership in moving Hong Kong's education system into the 21st century.

At more personal level I would like to comment on a recent *Odyssey of the Mind* event held here on our campus. *Odyssey of the Mind* owes its origins in Hong Kong to Dr Wong's vision for our youth to be creative, collaborative and successful problem-solvers. At that event, many hundreds of primary and secondary students were involved and as she and I walked around the various problem-solving sites I was overwhelmed by the students' incredible enthusiasm for learning as well as their competence and confidence in sharing their creative and problem solving abilities. Equally I was impressed by Dr Wong's abilities to be immersed in the whole experience. To me, what I saw on that day reinforced all that I knew about quality learning. There is a lesson in this for all educators.

In concluding Mr Chairman, I must say that in this citation I have but merely touched the surface of Dr Wong's deep social commitment to Hong Kong. She is indeed an exceptional individual. She has unselfishly, and I should say humbly, devoted her life to the serving of others in a variety of capacities as I have outlined. It is in recognition of this devotion and dedication that I request you to confer on Dr Wong the award of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.