

CVs of honorary doctorate recipients

Dr Betty Chan Po-king

As a dedicated educator, pioneer and advocate, Dr Betty Chan Po-king has devoted her life to education with great passion and commitment. As Director of the Yew Chung Education Foundation, providing quality early childhood, primary, secondary, and most recently, tertiary education, she not only radically transformed pre-school education in the 1970s, but also pioneered a unique bilingual and co-cultural international education model, integrating the best of the East and West. Under her leadership, the Yew Chung International Schools in HK, Mainland China, and Silicon Valley nurture young children to become global citizens who are leaders of tomorrow. Dr Chan has also served the community in multiple capacities, most notably as a member of the Education and Manpower Bureau's Standing Committee on Language Education Research (SCOLAR), the Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and Qualifications (ACTEQ), and the Appeals Board (Education), and is presently the Honorary President of the HK Federation of Women's Centres. Internationally, she is the President of the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA), and is the Chairperson of the Alliance for International Education (AIE)'s China Chapter. In recognition of her groundbreaking work in early childhood education and her consistent advocacy for excellence in all levels of education, Dr Chan was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2010.

Mr Cheng Kok-kong

After graduating from Grantham College of Education in 1965, Mr Cheng Kok-kong began his career as a teacher at Ng Wah College-Primary School (PM), currently Ng Wah Catholic Primary School, where he remained until his retirement in 1996. In addition to his career, he pursued further studies at the Department of Extramural Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, then at the Department of Communication at the then Hong Kong Baptist College. In 1971, Mr Cheng began working part-time as a project coordinator, scriptwriter and adviser for a children's television programme, and soon after began to compose songs for children's programmes. 'Childhood', 'Dr Slump' and 'Doraemon' were among the best-known of these. Mr Cheng then started to write pop songs, and was known as a 'productive' lyricist. RTHK's Top Ten Chinese Gold Songs listed 21 of his compositions, including 'Me and You against the Wind and Rain' and 'A Real Man'. In 2008, Mr Cheng returned to teaching, hosting workshops at the Baptist University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and HKIEd, where he shares his insights and knowledge of lyrical composition.

Ms Rowena Cheung Po-man

Ms Rowena Cheung Po-man is currently the Visual Arts Panel Chair of the Hong Kong Taoist Association Wun Tsuen School. She promotes arts education with great enthusiasm. The accolades Ms Cheung has received over the years include the Outstanding Teacher Award, the Education Bureau's Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence (Arts Education), the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Outstanding Arts Teacher Award and Ten Outstanding Young Persons. With Ms Cheung's guidance and the support of her colleagues, Wun Tsuen School also received the Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Bronze Award for Arts Education in 2008, its Gold Award in 2009 and its Silver Award in 2010. Ms Cheung is also a devoted participant in voluntary services that aim to enhance local arts education, and she is the current President of the Hong Kong Society for Education in Art, where she has served as an executive committee member since 2004. She was also a member of the panel of examiners for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council from 2005 to 2008. Since 2008, she has been an educational consultant at HKIEd. Ms Cheung has been invited to numerous international and local arts educational forums to share her extensive experience in arts education.

Dr Francis Cheung Wing-ming, MH

Dr Francis Cheung Wing-ming was the Secretary General (from 2007 to 2010) and Deputy Secretary General (from 2004 to 2007) of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority. He was central to the assessment reform in Hong Kong, and he also shared his extensive experience as a member of the International Advisory Panel of the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment, and as an expert consultant for the Tianjin Examinations Authority in mainland China. Dr Cheung was the principal lecturer and deputy director of the Centre for Research and International Collaboration at the Institute, and also worked as the supervisor of the HKIEd Jockey Club Primary School. He later became the Institute's Registrar. During his stay with the Institute, Dr Cheung led a team to develop the Institute's first Bachelor of Education Honours degree programme. He was also at the forefront of the successful Institutional Review exercise, which led to the self-accreditation status of the Institute's education programmes. In recognition of his contribution to the development of quality education in Hong Kong, Dr Cheung received a Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong Special Administration Region Government in 2002.

Mrs Chu Tang Lai-kuen

Back in 1959, while Mrs Chu Tang Lai-kuen was serving as a teacher at a roof-top school, she came to realise that a seven-year-old child there was developing behavioural problems due to a lack of supervision and care. This, and other such encounters, deeply affected her, and prompted her to study full-time for a child welfare certificate offered by the Social Welfare Department. Since achieving the certificate, Mrs Chu has dedicated her career to early childhood education. In the 1960s, as part of her practical training, Mrs Chu worked at an orphanage where she witnessed the trauma suffered by toddlers who had lost their families. This experience strengthened her determination to ensure that young children receive appropriate care from the very beginning of their lives. In 1962, Caritas Hong Kong opened its first day nursery in Tsuen Wan. Mrs Chu was there to lay the groundwork. Her passion and talent were quickly recognised, and it was recommended that she further her studies, which enabled her to coordinate various services for young children within the organisation. From 1980 to 2004, Mrs Chu served as Coordinator of the Child Care Service and Preschool Education Service at Caritas Hong Kong. Mrs Chu continually moves with the times, setting an outstanding example for younger educators. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to early education and social services, Mrs Chu was awarded the HKSAR Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service in 2002.

Mr Kwan Kee

Mr Kwan Kee graduated from the Northcote College of Education in 1975, where he was President of the Student Union. Mr Kwan actively participated in social services and was Chairman of the Sir David Trench Fund between 2005 and 2007, responsible for considering applications for grants related to improving local recreation amenities. Mr Kwan has also served as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Athletics Association since 2009, striving to help local athletes to develop their competence and progress to elite level, through a series of systematic training programmes. Mr Kwan has been the Regional Commissioner (Hong Kong Island Region) of the Scout Association of Hong Kong since 2008, responsible for coordinating the training programmes and handling the personnel affairs of the districts of Hong Kong Island. In recognition of his dedicated contributions to social services, Mr Kwan was awarded the Certificate of Commendation by the Secretary for Home Affairs in 2008, and the Commendation for Community Service by the Chief Executive in 2013.

Mr Lee Park-keong

Mr Lee Park-keong began his career as a primary teacher after graduating from the Grantham College of Education in 1954. Six years later Mr Lee was appointed Lecturer at the Sir Robert Black College of Education. He furthered his studies in 1967 at the Chinese University, where he graduated with a first-class honours degree followed by a Master of Arts degree. In 1973, he was appointed as a Chinese Language teacher at the Jockey Club Government Secondary School. Students there showed marked improvements under his guidance. In 1976, Mr Lee was transferred to the Examination Division of the Education Department, where he was responsible for devising the examination content of the Chinese Language and Chinese Literature subjects for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE). In 1978, he was recruited by the Hong Kong Examinations Authority as its Chinese Language Subject Officer. In this role, he worked with great dedication in planning the Chinese Language and Literature subjects for the Hong Kong Higher Level Examination (HKHLE) and the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE). In the 1990s, the Examinations Authority launched the Putonghua Proficiency Tests, for which Mr Lee served as the secretary during the first two years. Currently, Mr Lee serves as the Chairman of the Past Students' Association of the Grantham College of Education. From the 1980s, he was appointed School Manager for a number of member schools under the Association. In 2011, he gained the position of School Supervisor and Chairman of the Board of the Incorporated Management Committee for the GCEPSA Whampoa Primary School.

Mrs Laura Ling Lau Yuet-fun, BBS, MH

Mrs Laura Ling Lau Yuet-fun is Chairperson of the Shatin Public School Association Limited and the Hong Kong Special Olympics, and Vice President of the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped. She has been involved in special education and sports development for persons with intellectual disabilities (ID) for over 30 years. The founder principal of Shatin Public School (a special school for children with mild ID), Mrs Ling has spent 25 years working proactively in the field of education development, especially in curriculum design, for children with ID. Over the past 20 years, she was appointed as Chairperson of the Hong Kong Special Schools Council and has served as a committee member for numerous organisations including the Sha Tin District Council, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Transport Advisory Committee and the Curriculum Development Council. As a commendation for her achievements in special education, social work and sports development for people with ID, Mrs Ling was awarded the Medal of Honour by the government in both 1996 and 2002. In 2007, she added the Bronze Bauhinia Star to her many accolades.