

Citation for Mr Cheung Man-kwong

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Mr Cheung Man-kwong has selflessly dedicated his career to fostering quality education, safeguarding teachers' rights and promoting social development, as former President of the Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union (HKPTU) and a Member of the Legislative Council. For the past several decades, his contributions to both education and politics have reached far and wide in the community.

Born into a middle-class family in 1954, Mr Cheung had many career aspirations as a child. But during his matriculation years, his participation in a grassroots campaign to secure warm winter clothing for victims of the Kowloon Bay fire inspired him to devote himself to social causes. After graduating from the Department of Economics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1978, he became fully involved in the student and social movements that were blossoming at the time. Through these experiences he met the late Mr Szeto Wah. This important acquaintance led Mr Cheung to a substitute teaching job at a primary school, where he began a life-long career as an educator, who brought his passion to work and provided his students with dedicated guidance and support.

Starting as an HKPTU volunteer soon after he began teaching, Mr Cheung became its President in 1990 and a Member of the Legislative Council representing the education sector in 1991. Wearing multiple hats, he has since made significant contributions to the sector as an advocate and leader for change.

During his tenure as HKPTU President and a Member of the Legislative Council, Mr Cheung always put himself at the forefront of issues concerning teachers, students and parents. In addition to speaking out for their rights, he advocated and pushed for the formulation of policies for quality education. For the benefit of early childhood education, he has worked with the sector in demanding additional subsidies from the government since 1995. Marked progress has been made in the training and professional development of teachers, remuneration and school subsidies over the years. The government also implemented the Pre-primary Education Voucher Scheme to subsidise kindergartens, while incorporating early childhood education as part of the 15-year free education system.

As a leader of the HKPTU, Mr Cheung worked day in and day out to secure employment opportunities for primary and secondary teachers who were made redundant in the early 2000s, when schools were closed due to funding cuts arising from the decreasing birth rate. At the same time, his advocacy culminated in a historic Legislative Council motion in 2004 to reduce class sizes, and the government subsequently rolled out a career switch scheme to assist affected teachers. In the higher education sector, Mr Cheung was a driving force behind the new 334 academic structure, paying special attention to teacher training. He also lent staunch support to the retitling of the then Hong Kong Institute of Education to The Education University of Hong Kong, as it is today.

Throughout his professional and political careers over the decades, he championed ideals with unrelenting passion and worked meticulously. As a legislator, he was often seen in heated debate with government officials in the chamber. Although some of his ideals could not come to fruition, he remained committed to his belief in quality education, and his pragmatism and power of reasoning won him respect across the political spectrum.

In retrospect, Mr Cheung said if he had not entered politics, he would have been a primary school teacher. He said, "The efforts you put into teaching students will pay off, and indeed the rewards will far exceed your expectations." He fondly recalls taking students from less privileged backgrounds to Lai Yuen theme park and movie theatres over the weekends, as well as organizing storytelling activities to enrich their learning experience outside the classroom. He tailored his teaching both for high-achievers and for those who went astray. His students are always on his mind even after decades apart, and his care for them is beyond words. In addition to acquiring professional and subject knowledge, he calls on the next generation of teachers to care for the education of the less privileged, treat them with sincerity,

and give them affection, warmth and hope. This, he believes, will give the students a tremendous lift for the better.

Mr Chairman, Mr Cheung Man-kwong has dedicated his life to education for several decades, nurturing and caring for his students as an educator. As a union leader, he held fast to his beliefs and worked closely and tirelessly with his peers in promoting the wellbeing and long-term development of education and society. Mr Cheung is no longer on the frontline, but he remains engaged in the education and public sectors, staying abreast of the latest developments and sharing his views through different channels in his capacity as an HKPTU Senate Member. In recognition of his contributions to education and the wider community, on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Mr Cheung Man-kwong to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan, MH

Mr Chairman of the Council,

A veteran frontline educator, curriculum designer and policy advocate, Dr Sanly Kam Shau-wan has dedicated herself to early childhood education for almost 40 years. She has championed innovation and change in her profession, passionately striving for quality in both teaching and curricula, increased resources, and strengthening parental support for their children's education. In her life-long devotion to education, Dr Kam has made remarkable achievements with a far-reaching impact on the field both in Hong Kong and in other Chinese communities, including the promulgation of her publications on the Mainland.

As a secondary school student, Dr Kam once accompanied a classmate on a job interview at a nursery school, which presaged her career as an early childhood educator. The school was located in an otherwise abandoned seven-storey building, not the ideal environment for young children. Dr Kam wanted to improve the facilities, so she spent time after class painting the walls white and orange. She also set up a reading corner with rugs so that the children could enjoy learning in a more comfortable setting. Dr Kam said that when she saw how delighted and excited the children were to study in the renovated classroom, she made up her mind to pursue a career in early childhood education, a mission to which she would dedicate the rest of her working life. Back then, the early childhood sector lacked systematic support, highly qualified teachers and competitive remuneration. Recognising the importance of early childhood education for the long-term development of society, she spoke out in hopes of bringing about improvement. Starting in the 1980s, she participated in various protests organised by associations formed by parents and other educators in the field. To raise the profile of early childhood education in general, she resorted to public advocacy in seeking to standardise teacher training and curricula and raising the level of government's funding.

As a frontline educator, Dr Kam pioneered change and innovation in the organisations in which she served, launching and promoting services that were novel at the time. This included participation in a pilot scheme for integrated learning for children with special educational needs in 1980. In the 1990s, she piloted Extended Edu-care service and Occasional Child Care Service in her nursery schools for families in need. The Parlo Centre, which was set up in 1988 under Hong Kong Christian Services, was the city's first facility designated for parent education. To help working parents, she established the city's first work-based child care centre as commissioned by HSBC in 1990. Two similar facilities were commissioned by United Christian Hospital and the Airport Authority in 1993 and 2017 respectively.

In the development of activity-based teaching and learning in kindergarten, Dr Kam began to make her mark by participating in the design of curricula and conducting research as early as the 1980s. In 1995, *Development Curriculum for the Aged 2-6 Years*, a book to which she contributed, was published by Beijing Normal University Press. Subsequently, she was invited to visit Beijing to share her expertise at seminars on the professional training of principals and teachers in the early childhood education field. Since 2000, based on Dr Kam's deeply held belief in the importance of holistic development of children, exhibitions have been held annually to encourage arts education for young children. She has also championed a variety of other programmes to promote the physical and emotional health of young children, as well as life education.

Despite her hectic schedule, Dr Kam has spared no effort in her personal pursuit of life-long learning. After graduating from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1987 with a Certificate in Child Care Workers' Training, she acquired a Diploma in Social Work from City University of Hong Kong in 1994 and a BA in Social Work in 1999. She received an MA in Education from the University of Western Australia in 2001 and a PhD from the University of South Australia in 2009, exemplifying the symbiosis of teaching and research. She attributes her persistent and tireless dedication to early childhood education to her faith in young children. She points out that the first six years of life are the most critical phase of children's development and form an indispensable part of the education system. She believes that society should invest more resources in strengthening this foundation for our future.

In 2003, to promote change and development at the policy level, Dr Kam founded the Council of Non-profit Making Organisations for Pre-primary Education, together with educational bodies sharing similar vision. For the subsequent 15 years, she has served the elected President, leading the organisation in its proactive pursuit of quality early childhood education and making a continuous contribution to the professional training of educators and support for families. Dr Kam has been invited to serve on various government advisory committees as the voice of education practitioners in the field. In 2013, she was appointed a member of the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education to strategise free, quality kindergarten education in Hong Kong. Since 2014, Dr Kam has served as a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, now The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), as well as an expert consultant for the University's Early Childhood Futures Group. From 2015 onwards, she has shared her expert advice on enhancing our programmes for nurturing the next generation of early childhood educators as an advisor for the Centre for Child and Family Science of EdUHK. Last year, Dr Kam received the Medal of Honour from the HKSAR government in recognition of her accomplishments in early childhood education.

Mr Chairman, Dr Sanly Kam Chau-wan has had an unswerving commitment to her own educational vision and has devoted herself to lifting the status of early childhood education and providing quality education services for children by promoting, encouraging and enabling positive change in the system. In recognition of her contributions, I present Dr Kam for the award of Honorary Fellowship on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong.

Citation for Dr Michael Mak Hoi-hung, SBS, JP

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Dr Michael Mak Hoi-hung has been passionately committed to education and health for nearly five decades and he has distinguished himself in both fields. His contributions have been greatly appreciated and recognised by medical bodies, academic institutions and the HKSAR government.

Brought up in a grassroots family, Dr Mak regards education as his route from his humble beginnings in Sai Ying Pun to medical school at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) by way of St Paul's Co-educational College. Dr Mak attended the College for 13 years and credits that experience with giving him the means to achieve social mobility. In gratitude for the opportunity this gave, and from a wider sense of duty, he has spent a great part of his life in civic service through medical societies and education bodies – both for his alma mater and for the wider Hong Kong education environment.

After completing his secondary education as a leading student and boys' head prefect, Dr Mak studied medicine at HKU and graduated in 1970. He won a government scholarship and gained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the University of Liverpool in 1973, before becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians the following year and obtaining a Diploma in Child Health at the University of London. Originally, Dr Mak wanted to be an internist. However, during his surgical housemanship, he was deeply affected by the sudden, unexplained death of a young boy in his ward. He subsequently switched to paediatrics.

Throughout his professional career, Dr Mak has been very active in professional affairs, having served on the Council of the Hong Kong Medical Association and as the second Vice President of the Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong. He was the Chief Editor of the Hong Kong Medical Association newsletter, Chief Editor of the Hong Kong Medical Diary and Editor-in-Chief of the Hong Kong Medical Directory (3rd Edition). He also served on the School Medical Service Board from 1981 to 1983, the Medical Development Advisory Committee from 1987 to 1991, as Council Member and Honorary Adviser of the Hong Kong Spastic Association (1977-1992) and Hospital Governing Committee Member of the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (1991-2001). From 1999 to 2014 he served on the Executive Committee of HKU's Medical Alumni Association.

Dr Mak says that if he had not become a physician, he would have been a teacher and while he says humbly that he is 'an amateur' not a professional educator, having experienced the value of education, he would like more people to benefit from it. As he recalls, one legacy of his 13 formative years at St Paul's is his fond memory of the College's primary school headmaster, Mr Mak Ying-kei, and particularly the secondary school principal, Dr Bobbie Kotewall, whom he described as a legendary educator deeply missed by pupils of her era for her affectionate counselling and wise guidance. Years after he left the College, Dr Kotewall's successor, Mrs Chen Lam Ngar-sheung, asked Dr Mak to return as chairman of the alumni association. He answered the call and from 1986 to 1992 transformed it into a more structured organisation. He later engineered the school's entry into the Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) as the Supervisor of the College.

Dr Mak is now the Vice-Chairman of the St Paul's Co-educational College Council and often gives a lot of thought into devising ways to ensure that more 'grassroots' students can benefit from education at St Paul's. Dr Mak wants to help others elevate themselves as he did, as he believes society benefits when everybody receives a decent education, so making education available to everyone will raise standards across the community. The College offers scholarships to any student displaying academic excellence, or outstanding musical or sporting talent. He says this opened up the College for less privileged students.

In the higher education sector, Dr Mak served as Council Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from 2008 to 2013, helping to discern and supporting students' aspirations. In 2013, Dr Mak was appointed to the University Grants Committee and was a member of the review panel whose favourable decision allowed the then Hong Kong Institute of Education to become The Education

University of Hong Kong. Dr Mak was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2005 and the HKSAR government awarded him the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2013 in recognition of his distinguished public and community service, particularly his long-term commitment in the education field and his valuable advice on enhancing the governance and administration systems of the DSS schools.

For more than 40 years, Dr Mak has dedicated himself to medicine, public service and education, above all, in seeking ways to help the less well-off enjoy the benefits that flow from a good grounding at school. He is committed to the belief that, while money is needed for facilities and paying good teachers, it is not everything: educators must have a social conscience and keep in mind that students remember their teachers for many years. He says giving is very important and that if “everyone gives back a little, we soon benefit a lot. If you hold back, society will crumble”. He believes that educators must look to the future and plan to make the most of the experience, saying that otherwise: “We use yesterday's textbooks to train tomorrow's citizens.”

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished achievements as well as his contributions particularly to the education and medical sectors, especially for people from less-advantaged backgrounds; on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Dr Michael Mak Hoi-hung to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Social Ventures Hong Kong (SVhk). Dedicating himself to the development of social innovations, Mr Ngai resigned from his full-time job and committed himself entirely to the cause. An advocate of solving social issues through innovative means, he has drawn from his extensive professional knowledge and corporate experience to promote a vibrant culture of social entrepreneurship in Hong Kong. Mr Ngai is a role model in our society for his passion for life and his efforts in mobilising change and innovation.

Having grown up in a middle-class family, Mr Ngai gained admission to the City University of Hong Kong through his hard work. Upon graduation in 1994, he took up appointments at an international advertising agency and subsequently listed companies in Hong Kong. In 2007, he became a father, which inspired him to imagine his child's future and reflect on his own life path. Realising that his success owed much to Hong Kong's rapid social and economic development in the past few decades, he felt a responsibility to preserve and create a better environment for his children. He thus resigned from his position as Assistant Vice-President at a technology conglomerate and founded SVhk, dedicating himself fully to nurturing social enterprises.

Back then, the Hong Kong public knew little about venture philanthropy. Mr Ngai leveraged his experience and connections accumulated in the corporate world to raise funds to establish and grow various social enterprises. He also adopted innovative business models to make it easier for new social enterprises to sustain themselves.

Despite the difficulties in raising funds during the early stages, SVhk has managed to nurture over 40 Hong Kong social innovation projects in the years that followed. Apart from familiar names such as Diamond Cab and LightBe affordable housing, a handful of these enterprises are in the education sector. For example, Playtao Education provides after-school learning experiences for students from less privileged backgrounds. Green Monday partners with various education institutions to promote healthy, plant-based diet.

With SVhk striding into its second decade, Mr Ngai envisions transforming the organisation into a cultivator of positivity in society in addition to a facilitator of social enterprises, educating the public to come up with collaborative and innovative solutions to solve problems in their community by drawing on their collective wisdom and efforts.

An avid ultra-runner, Mr Ngai often likens his career to a marathon: every marathon is a journey filled with ups and downs. In face of challenge, people need to be agile and flexible. Only those who endure and persist can reach the finish line. Even though he feels exhausted after every marathon, he embraces the challenges as life-enriching experiences which propel him forward even when facing grave difficulties. In 2012, he covered an incredible 250 km in the Gobi Desert Run as part of the "4 Deserts Race Series". The following year saw him running 100 km at the Sundown Marathon in Singapore, and becoming the first runner from Hong Kong to finish the North Pole Marathon.

In 2011, Mr Ngai was listed in the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Selection, and in 2012 he was named one of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders. In 2013, he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the City University of Hong Kong, and the next year named one of the 100 Asia Pioneers by The Purpose Economy. His endeavours have won international recognition.

Mr Chairman, modern educators need not only professional knowledge but, more importantly, passion. They teach with their own experience and actions; they give their lives over to influencing other lives. Even though Mr Ngai is not directly involved in education, as a venture philanthropist, his actions speak louder than words. He injects new blood into venture philanthropy and mobilises change in social enterprises with his professional expertise and vision. With passion, persistence and creativity, building

on an entrepreneurial spirit, he has achieved remarkable results and set a great example for the education sector. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Mr Francis Ngai Wah-sing to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for The Honourable Abraham Shek Lai-him, GBS, JP

Mr Chairman of the Council,

The Honourable Abraham Shek Lai-him has distinguished himself for many decades in the private and public sectors – notably shipping, railways and urban redevelopment – but teaching was his first career choice and he remains passionate about education while serving as a Member of the Legislative Council.

Born in Macau, he completed his education at Queen's College before going to Australia where he studied at University of Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. He was about to enrol in law as a post-graduate student when he had the sudden inspiration to serve the community and chose to become a teacher. He completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Education and taught in Sydney before returning to Hong Kong in 1970. Coming from a family that was suddenly impoverished after his father died when Mr Shek was just one year old, he feels strongly in creating equal opportunity where possible. His mother — 'a tough woman' — impressed on him that he must study hard to overcome adversity. She strongly encouraged Mr Shek and his siblings to read voraciously and to report back to her on their reading discoveries. He has maintained the reading habit for a lifetime and kept up his interest in history, politics and economics.

Upon his return to Hong Kong, he switched careers to the shipping industry and joined the Swire organisation's shipping operation as an executive trainee and later joined the Hong Kong Export Lines Limited (C Y Tung Group of Companies). It was a time of rapid economic growth in Hong Kong and Mr Shek was at the heart of it for more than a decade as the city became the world's leading container port. Mr Shek's success in this field led the Kowloon Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) to appoint him its first Commercial Director in 1984. The KCRC was expanding its rail network, starting in the North West New Territories and serving the new towns on Tuen Mun and Yuen Long. Mr Shek's mission was to improve the corporation's commercial operations. It did not have great cash resources but it had a lot of space above its stations and Mr Shek moved the corporation into property development to sustain railway development without placing a burden on taxpayers or passengers. In 1986, its first joint-venture property development project was completed in Tuen Mun.

Following Mr Shek's success with the KCRC, he became the Land Development Corporation's first Chief Executive in 1987. This appointment allowed him to make the most of his experience and commercial acumen as he oversaw the redevelopment and renovation of Hong Kong's dilapidated urban areas. Apart from the development of over five million square feet of properties, he is proud of his achievements in relocating elderly and disadvantaged people in greatly improved housing. Since he became a Member of the Legislative Council representing the real estate and construction functional constituency in 2000, he has also concerned himself with the state of education in Hong Kong, especially for special needs students and those from minority groups. He believes sufficient help and attention must be paid to these groups or the students will fail to assimilate and almost inevitably graduate into the lower regions of society, affecting their chances of improved social mobility.

Mr Shek believes 'education must have equal opportunity for all' and reflecting on his own experience over the years led him to consider the position of Hong Kong's disadvantaged and minority students. He has campaigned on behalf of these groups in the belief handed on by his mother that four things will always be with us: right, wrong, good and bad. It is essential to strive for the right and good. Mr Shek paraphrased British scientist and philosopher Francis Bacon: 'We can't change yesterday but we can change the future.' Acting on that thought, Mr Shek has established a scholarship in his mother's name for female students of ethnic minorities who have attained university entrance but not fully supported in their academic endeavours by their communities. He aims to make a positive impact especially on students who are not particularly gifted, as they stand to benefit more from the additional support provided to them.

He says 'education has never left me' and he is a strong supporter of the English Schools Foundation (ESF), Hong Kong's largest English-language school organisation, where he is Chairman of the Board of

Governors. He is also a Member of the Court of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and a Council and Court Member of the University of Hong Kong, where he has strongly defended students' rights to free speech – although he may not always agree with what they say.

He holds directorships in a number of listed companies including the MTR Corporation and was appointed as non-executive director of the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority in 2015. He sits on several corporate boards and is a member of the Independent Commission Against Corruption's Advisory Committee on Corruption. In 1995, Mr Shek became a Justice of the Peace. In 2007, he was awarded a Silver Bauhinia Star. In 2013, Mr Shek was awarded a Gold Bauhinia Star for his distinguished public and community service, particularly his dedication and significant contributions to the real estate and construction industry.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished achievements in his illustrious career and commitment to public service and his contributions particularly to education and especially for people from less-advantaged backgrounds; on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present The Honourable Abraham Shek Lai-him to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.