Citation for

Mr Tai Hay-lap, BBS, JP, Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Mr Tai Hay-lap graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1976, and began his distinguished career in education as a teacher in a subsidised secondary school. While he was teaching, he pursued further education part time to obtain a Master of Arts in Education, specialising in educational administration. Since 1987, Mr Tai has been serving as Principal of Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping Secondary School. He has also been appointed to numerous public service positions including Vice Chairman of the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, Council Member of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Member of the Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee, Chairman of the Quality Education Fund Steering Committee, Member of the Education Commission, and Member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community, and specifically to education, Mr Tai has been awarded the Badge of Honour and the Bronze Bauhinia Star, as well as being named Justice of the Peace.

As a school principal, Mr Tai has always valued the quality of teachers. He is a firm believer that only high-quality teachers can nurture students with a positive learning attitude and outlook on life. Following his belief in the management model conveyed through his school’s motto “All for Students; All by Teachers”, he encourages students to go beyond the classroom to broaden their horizons and have diversified learning experiences. Under his exemplary leadership, Yan Oi Tong Tin Ka Ping Secondary School was rated as a High Performance School by the Education and Manpower Bureau in 2000, in addition to receiving the Outstanding School Award.

Not only is Mr Tai dedicated to his role as school principal, but he is also actively involved in numerous public service positions in education. As Vice Chairman of the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, he has donated generously to many teacher education institutions and universities in Mainland China, while drawing talented educators from different organisations together in the development of moral education, fostering exchange and collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Mr Tai’s close relationship with the HKIEd dates back to when he served as a Council Member. During his tenure, he was devoted to establishing a solid foundation for the Institute upon which we could move steadily towards the realisation of our vision.

Mr Tai became a Member of the Education Commission in 2000. Along with Mr Antony Leung Kam-chung, Chairman of the Commission at the time, and fellow member Mr Cheng Kai-ming, he released the blueprint of the current education reform. As a result, the trio are hailed as the “three leading forces” of the reform. One of Mr Tai’s most important reform accomplishments is his initiative in establishing the HKSAR Quality Education Fund. Under his capable leadership, funding was allocated wisely and put to the best use, providing a driving force behind the robust development of education in Hong Kong.

Renowned for being a passionate and outspoken educator in Hong Kong, Mr Tai is also deeply concerned with education in Mainland China. As a Member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, he has offered many unique and insightful propositions that will mutually benefit educational development in both Mainland China and Hong Kong.

As a veteran educator, Mr Tai has never ceased striving towards continual improvement and excellence. To update himself on the latest development in education around the world, he regularly attends education events overseas, visits