Mr Chairman,

A distinguished philanthropist and successful business leader, Mr Lau Ming-wai has given generously to a great number of charitable causes, benefiting communities and individuals locally, nationally and internationally. Especially significant are his contributions to the cause of education and the future development of Hong Kong and mainland China. Mr Lau is Chairman and CEO of Chinese Estates Holdings Limited, a major investment holding company based in Hong Kong. He obtained his LLB at King’s College and his LLM at the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2007, he completed a doctorate in Law at King’s College, at the age of 27.

His doctoral research focused on the economic functions of trusts and trust law, and his research studies led to the publication of his book, *The Economic Structure of Trusts*, by Oxford University Press in 2011. Its Chinese translation is set to be published later this year. In 2013, Mr Lau’s working paper “The Nature of the Beneficial Interest – Historical and Economic Perspectives” was presented at the prestigious Harvard Private Law Workshop.

Mr Lau is a registered attorney in the State of New York in the United States, and a Chartered Financial Analyst. Before returning to Hong Kong, he also worked in London for Goldman Sachs and Longview Partners.

Those who have met Mr Lau cannot help but be impressed by not only his formidable intellect and leadership skills, but also by his unassuming personality and thoughtful presence. Once people become acquainted with him, and learn about his active involvement in philanthropic causes, they are struck by his charitable nature and humble dedication to the welfare of people from a broad spectrum of society.

Mr Lau heads his family’s Joseph Lau Luen Hung Charitable Trust, which has made substantial donations to academic institutions in Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas for the promotion of education. One notable donation is a gift to his alma mater, King’s College, for the development of its China Institute, which was consequently renamed after the family. The donation was praised as “transformational” by King’s College. According to Mr Lau, the decision was motivated by a desire to help Hong Kong and China’s future generations through the Institute’s goals of promoting the exchange of ideas between the West and China, and supporting research into the economic, political and cultural ideology
behind China’s current prominence on the world stage.

Mr Lau’s Charitable Trust has also generously supported HKIEd, including a donation in 2010 to the Institute’s Asia Pacific Centre for Leadership and Change (APCLC), together with the establishment of an Endowed Chair in the field of education leadership. The funding also contributed to initiatives in creative arts and culture, projects in Greater China studies and the enhancement of overseas experiential learning for full-time undergraduate students. Since then, the Trust has continued to renew its support for the Institute, including through a donation in 2013-14 towards the APCLC’s initiatives to deliver cutting-edge research and knowledge transfer, enhancing its international status as one of the most influential centres for educational leadership and change. As Director of the APCLC and Joseph Lau Endowed Chair Professor of International Educational Leadership, I have had the privilege and pleasure to work with the Charitable Trust over the past few years. Mr Lau and the Trust’s firm commitment to the future of education are both apparent and truly admirable.

In addition to higher education, Mr Lau has demonstrated his devotion to the welfare of young children in need. In mainland China, a large number of children in rural areas are being left at home while their parents move to towns and cities to seek work opportunities and support the family, leading to a series of family and social issues. Sichuan province is one of the affected areas. Through visits to local areas and working closely with local and regional authorities, Mr Lau learned about the situation and donated RMB5 million for the establishment of 250 “Homes for Stay-Behind-Children” to provide them with safe environments and sufficient facilities to stay and learn. Thanks to Mr Lau’s donation, the programme has benefited close to 100,000 children. In addition to extending his financial support, Mr Lau has personally visited some of these children in Mianzhu, Sichuan. In 2008, following the devastating Sichuan earthquake, on behalf of his company, Mr Lau generously donated much-needed funding towards the relief work.

Mr Lau is currently a member of the Sichuan Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, an Honorary Trustee of Peking University and a Board Member of University of International Business and Economics, a research university in Beijing. In Hong Kong, he is Vice Chairman of the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre, an independent think tank that focuses on Hong Kong’s long-term competitiveness and socioeconomic well-being. He is also Deputy Chairman of the Ocean Park Corporation, co-opted member of Community Care Fund Task Force and Societal Engagement Task Force under the Commission on Poverty, a member of the Financial Infrastructure Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee and a Council member of the City University of Hong Kong. Mr Lau is particularly passionate about the Hong Kong Spirit Ambassador Programme,
of which he was one of the founding members in 2010. The Programme aims at promoting a culture of pro-activity and optimism across society, and affirming the positive aspects of Hong Kong’s identity.

Mr Chairman, Mr Lau Ming-wai is a distinguished public figure and successful young leader whose achievements in business are matched by his charitable spirit. It is my pleasure and privilege to present Mr Lau Ming-wai, and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.