

## **Citation for Mr Chu King-yuen, BBS, MH, JP, Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Currently Chairman of the New Territories School Heads Association and Consultant Principal at the New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited Leung Sing Tak Primary School, Mr Chu King-yuen has had a distinguished career in education, guided by his vision to offer a diverse learning and development experience for students. Over the past few decades, he has continually applied new ideas to create opportunities for young people to realise their dreams, while forging new communication channels for the education sector and contributing to the wider community.

Born into a farming family in the New Territories, Mr Chu's aspiration to study at the Sir Robert Black College of Education, where he majored in Physical Education and Mathematics, was inspired by his wife, whom he knew from childhood. Upon graduation, Mr Chu began teaching in a village school, where he integrated his passion for teaching with his hobby, taking his students to participate in outdoor activities. Outside the class, he also attended a number of coaching courses and applied his professional knowledge in extracurricular activities. Soon afterwards, he led his students to receive the Chief Commissioner's Shield from the Scout Association of Hong Kong. Not only did such excellent results give Mr Chu a great sense of satisfaction, but they also helped him to understand the positive impacts of extracurricular activities on students.

Subsequently, Mr Chu joined the New Territories Women and Juveniles Welfare Association Limited Leung Sing Tak Primary School as Deputy Principal. He continued to further his professional development outside of work and completed two degrees during this period. The then school principal, Dr Kwong Kai-to, was a staunch supporter of charitable causes. Thanks to his inspiration, Mr Chu gained a further understanding of how a diverse range of extracurricular activities could help students broaden their horizons and enrich their life experiences. With the new insights, Mr Chu became increasingly active in promoting physical education and recreational activities within the education and wider communities. After becoming a Tai Po District Council Member, he proactively organised a wide range of art, cultural and recreational activities. Among his many successful initiatives were the renowned Tai Po Children's Choir and the Wofoo Tai Po Football Team, to which he was deeply committed and which became a legendary story in town.

In 2002, the government promoted the establishment of the Third Division League of the Hong Kong Football Association across the 18 districts. Ever passionate about youth affairs, Mr Chu seized the opportunity to organise the Wofoo Tai Po Football Team, hoping that the move would give young people an unusual opportunity to realise their dreams. The young footballers lived up to the expectations placed on them. With flying colours, the team was repeatedly promoted to higher divisions. Nevertheless, the funding required also increased significantly with such promotions. To raise funds for the team, Mr Chu worked extremely hard. He came up with the creative idea whereby the team would give football lessons to marginalised young people in the district in exchange for subsidies from the Social Welfare Department. This resulted in a win-win situation: not only could Mr Chu's players be promoted to higher divisions, but they also gained self-improvement by teaching young people through leading by example.

Thanks to Mr Chu's tireless efforts, many of these players have flourished and now enjoy established careers. When reminiscing, he still speaks fondly of his young players, and his love and care for them are apparent.

In 2005, upon the establishment of school heads associations in Hong Kong and Kowloon, Mr Chu began to rally support for the establishment of the New Territories School Heads Association, of which he was the founding chairman. Since then, the Association has attracted a membership of over 800 school heads from secondary and primary schools as well as kindergartens in the New Territories. The Association actively promotes the development of national education, environmental education and a caring community spirit among students, with an aim of nurturing a new generation of socially responsible citizens. The Association

also serves as an exchange platform for professionals within the education sector, making significant contributions to the development and advancement of education.

Mr Chu's hard work and dedication in education and community development has been widely recognised, as testified by the awards bestowed upon him by the government: a Medal of Honour in 2003, a Justice of the Peace appointment in 2007 and a Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2012. Local affairs aside, Mr Chu is equally passionate about education in the Mainland, and has taken part in the establishment of over 60 "Schools of Hope". Since 1990, he has annually organised education exchange and poverty alleviation activities, leading local teachers and students on immersion experiences in the Mainland across various provinces and cities.

Devoted to education, Mr Chu has nurtured generations of talent and encouraged young people to actively participate in art, cultural and recreational activities as well as social service. For children struggling with poverty in the Mainland, he has been instrumental in the construction of new schools in many provinces. With his wide-ranging contributions to education, on behalf of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, I present Mr Chu King-yuen to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

## **Citation for Dr Maggie Koong May-kay, BBS, Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

With passion throughout her entire career, Dr Maggie Koong May-kay has spearheaded progress in early childhood education in Hong Kong, China and across the world.

Dr Koong's love of early childhood education can be traced to her upbringing. Her mother, former urban councillor Ms Christina Ting Yuk-chee, began a nursery in 1965. As a teenager, Dr Koong helped babysit infants during their first days at kindergarten, an experience she cherished and from which she developed her life's passion. However, after leaving St. Paul's Secondary School, her initial aspiration was to pursue medicine when admitted to Mount Holyoke College in the United States. Yet during her studies an exchange programme that took her to care for hospitalised special needs children changed the course of her life, prompting her decision to study for a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education.

She began as a kindergarten teacher in Massachusetts in 1984 and planned to develop a teaching career in the United States, but life took a fateful turn in 1985 during a trip back to Hong Kong. Persuaded by her mother, Dr Koong, then 22, decided to stay to run her mother's kindergartens. She started as a principal in a nursery she launched in Quarry Bay, where she put innovative teaching approaches into practice.

By adopting a "constructive education" approach that follows a child's development, she quickly expanded her mother's legacy, the Victoria Educational Organisation (VEO). A primary school followed in 1996, and a primary-cum-secondary school in 2007. As Chief Principal, she has made VEO a highly respected educational institution, with a student-centred bilingual curriculum. Today, VEO has 19 schools spread across Hong Kong and Mainland China, and all have been accredited as International Baccalaureate World Schools.

Dr Koong graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a Master of Education degree, and went on to gain a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Durham. During her career, she has made valuable contributions to raising the standards of early childhood education in Hong Kong, organising conferences locally and taking kindergarten principals to visit overseas nurseries. She also tirelessly campaigns for high quality kindergarten teachers with the minimum requirement of a Bachelor's degree, and the development of special needs education in kindergartens.

Despite her heavy responsibilities and demanding schedule, Dr Koong devotes her time and energy to advancing the well-being of women and children. She serves on the Women's Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission. She is the NGO representative for the United Nations, and Vice-chairperson of UNICEF Hong Kong. Her achievements in public and community service have won her many accolades, including among others a Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 2000, a Bronze Bauhinia Star from the HKSAR government in 2013 and Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded by Whittier College, USA in 2014. In the same year, she was the first Chinese to be elected World President of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP).

At the Institute, we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Koong. She is a founding Council member and helped to establish the School of Early Childhood Education. She served as a school manager of the HKIED HSBC Early Childhood Learning Centre from 2001 to 2008. She has also been a guest lecturer at the Institute, passing on her rich experience and enthusiasm for early childhood education to our students.

Mr Chairman, on behalf of The Hong Kong Institute of Education and in recognition of her enormous contribution to education not only in Hong Kong but also in Mainland China and around the world, I present Dr Maggie Koong May-kay to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

## Citation for Professor Lee Yue-hong, Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Highly accomplished in the Lingnan School of Chinese painting, Professor Lee Yue-hong merges traditional Chinese and Western techniques, as well as artistic approaches from Northern and Southern China, to create a distinct artistic voice of his own. In addition to being an internationally renowned artist, he is also deeply passionate about the advancement of art education, having nurtured exceptional artists for decades.

Born in Mainland China, Professor Lee loved Chinese paintings from childhood, often spending long hours studying his favourite pieces. During the Japanese invasion, he painted campaign posters to support the resistance effort, and his basic techniques were honed at a young age. In 1949, he moved to Hong Kong and found a teaching position at a secondary school, thanks to his teacher training back home. His talent was further recognised by his teacher at the Northcote College of Education, Mr Lee Woon-wah, who invited him to help design the art curriculum, giving him another opportunity to apply his painting skills. Upon graduation, Professor Lee taught as an art teacher at several secondary schools, while studying under the legendary Lingnan master Zhao Shao-ang at the Lingnan Art Studio, where he made impressive progress within several years. His works were exhibited at cultural institutions and museums in Hong Kong and overseas as early as the 1950s. Some pieces were acquired as parts of permanent collections by prestigious institutions in Europe, the United States, Japan and Korea.

The Lingnan School is renowned for applying Western still life techniques upon the foundation of Chinese styles. An outstanding student of Zhao Shao-ang, Professor Lee has a profound understanding of Zhao's art. He is determined to take Lingnan painting beyond Guangdong province, a wish that Zhao longed to fulfil. To this end, Professor Lee spent over two decades studying the Northern painting style, merging the spirited vitality of Northern ink painting with the rendering technique of the Lingnan School, to arrive at his unique artistic approach. His Beijing exhibition in the mid-1990s was an acclaimed success, leading to an invitation to exhibit in Dandong city and artists of the Northern School asking to be his students. Today, Professor Lee still travels regularly to Dandong city to engage in artistic exchanges and teach master classes. For the octogenarian artist, these journeys are physically demanding, but the joy of realising his late Master's wish makes them worthwhile.

In addition to promoting the Lingnan School in northern China, Professor Lee has played an active role in nurturing local talents in Hong Kong and Macao. He founded the Chinese Art Academy in 1958, in addition to teaching art in secondary schools. Upon retirement, he was invited by the Macao government to train local secondary and primary school teachers in the enclave, where he taught for the ensuing 15 years. He still teaches regularly in both cities and has nurtured many talented artists over the years. Both thorough and patient, he often tailors his teaching to address different students' needs. His teaching style is highly flexible, and he never repeats his topics.

At the age of 75, Professor Lee retired from his teaching position in Macao to focus on painting. In the subsequent decade, he completed his "Lotus", "Huangshan", "Waterfall", "Eagle" and "Peacock" series, each consisting of several hundred pieces, all characterised by a meticulous approach and a spirited vitality that invites the viewer's imagination to take flight. When creating his "Huangshan" series, despite his age, he travelled to the grand mountain nearly 20 times to observe the breath-taking landscape from different angles and in different seasons. For his plant paintings, he sought advice from botanical experts. Already highly accomplished in many styles of calligraphy, including standard, clerical, cursive and running scripts, Professor Lee began to develop a keen interest in and subsequently study the ancient art of Jinwen (bronze inscription) and Jiaguwen (oracle bone inscription) calligraphy, which he came across two decades ago. His passion for learning has not waned despite his age, setting an inspiring example of "lifelong learning" for us all.

Mr Chairman, throughout his distinguished career, Professor Lee has taken the Lingnan School beyond Guangdong province while nurturing generations of talents in the art world. Although an internationally renowned painter, he continues to maintain a low profile and remains modest as ever. Motivated by neither profit nor fame, but by an unwavering passion for Chinese culture and painting, Professor Lee is keeping up his teaching activities as he approaches 90. He is truly an inspirational figure who has made profound contributions throughout his career. On behalf of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, I present Professor Lee Yue-hong for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

## **Citation for Mr Leung Kee-cheong, Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Currently Principal of the Fresh Fish Traders' School, Mr Leung Kee-cheong is passionate about education. Working tirelessly for the well-being of children from grass-root families, not only has he offered his professional expertise but he has also given financially to his students. Always leading by example, he is a distinguished role model for educators.

The eldest son of a working class family, Mr Leung lost his father at a young age and had to start working part-time, as a cleaner, in his secondary two year. Nevertheless, he always had his father's teaching at heart: "To have a bright future, one must study hard." Although he passed the Certificate of Education Examination with flying colours, financial hardship had forced him to leave school temporarily. He continued working for six months before he convinced his mother to give him a year so that he could prepare for the public examination. With his admission to the Grantham College of Education, Mr Leung started a lifelong career in education.

After teaching for six years at a primary school, Mr Leung joined the Education Department (ED), working first as an Inspector and then as a School Development Officer. Through his work, he visited many schools and noticed many problems. The experience had a profound influence on him, renewing his sense of mission towards education. In 2000, witnessing strong resistance to the government's education reform initiatives, he decided that he would need to return to the frontlines to advance quality education. Later, while travelling, Mr Leung realised that a Buddhist teaching could make a huge difference in his life: opting for a path of either benevolence or malevolence was as easy as thinking a whimsical thought. Similarly, a teacher could either drive students to wrongdoing or instill great virtues in them. This triggered his final decision to leave the ED in 2002 after two decades, and he joined the Fresh Fish Traders' School as Principal.

Upon assuming the principalship, Mr Leung found the building dilapidated with only two computers for the entire school. Under his leadership, the school underwent renovation projects in phases, and new equipment and teaching aids were added. Knowing that many students' homes were overcrowded, Mr Leung decided to keep the school open after class and on weekends. Leading by example, he returned to the school seven days a week to support his students. He also initiated home visits so that his teachers could better understand students' backgrounds and teaching and learning activities could address their needs.

With his own working class background, Mr Leung understands well the myriad problems faced by his students, especially financial difficulties. Understanding the hardships they face, he regularly donated 1% of his monthly salary to help his students in emergency situations. He also established the "Principal's Fund", which uses his remuneration from writing newspaper columns to support his students' learning activities both locally and outside of Hong Kong.

Apart from management responsibilities, he also plays the roles of social worker and mediator, and extends assistance to parents. Such a demanding workload, however, has not prevented him from coming up with creative ideas for collaborating with various sectors to provide extracurricular activities for his students. One such project is a reading award scheme in collaboration with an airline company and the Civil Aviation Department, whereby the top 100 students reading the most books are invited to be passengers on a test flight. Under his leadership, teacher morale has increased dramatically, and parents and students have developed a strong sense of belonging to the school. A much beloved principal, Mr Leung is affectionately called "Daddy Principal" by his students!

Although the school has seen significant improvement, it was twice threatened with closure due to

under-enrolment. Nevertheless, Mr Leung firmly believed that it was crucial to have the “heart” for education. A school with such rare quality should not and would not simply disappear. He twice led his teachers and students to launch extensive campaigns to save the school. To date, it is the only primary school in Hong Kong that has passed the government’s “special inspection” and continues to operate. The saga has taught his students the invaluable lesson of holding fast to “self-belief”.

Today, not only does the school operate, but it has also attracted attention from the community. The business sector and many philanthropists donate resources, providing relief for students in need. Soon Mr Leung will retire from his position. Looking back, he does not at all regret his decision to leave a stable and well-paying job for a working class school, and go through the turmoil he has experienced. He believes that work satisfaction cannot be measured in monetary terms.

Mr Chairman, with his passion and constant reflection, Mr Leung has continually and proactively given his all to education and for the well-being of his students. Grounded in his belief of having a “heart” for education, his achievements are admirable. On behalf of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, I present Mr Leung Kee-cheong for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

## **Citation for Mr Carlson Tong, SBS, JP, Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

Held in high regard in the accountancy profession, Mr Carlson Tong has diligently served Hong Kong in various capacities. He is currently Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission and member of a number of public financial institutions, among others. He is also Chairman of the English Schools Foundation (ESF), Chairman of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) and was a member of the University Grants Committee (2011-2013).

A graduate of St. Paul's Co-educational College in 1971, Mr Tong humbly attributes his success to his education, especially in the United Kingdom where he crossed paths with excellent teachers, making a difference to his life and future career path. Qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the UK, Mr Tong joined KPMG UK in 1979, returned to Hong Kong in 1985 and became a partner in the firm in 1989. He was elected as Chairman of KPMG in China and Hong Kong in 2007, and became Chairman of KPMG Asia Pacific and a member of the KPMG International Global Board and Global Executive Team in 2009, positions he held until his retirement in April 2011.

With a sincere wish to serve the community, Mr Tong began his increasing involvement in education upon retirement. In May 2011, he was invited by the ESF board to succeed Professor Felice Lieh Mak as Chairman. At that time, the ESF was in a difficult position. While it was in urgent need of working out a sustainable funding model by negotiating with the Education Bureau (EDB), it also had to map out its strategic direction for further development.

Undaunted in the face of a longstanding deadlock in negotiations with the EDB, Mr Tong accepted the challenge. With his financial expertise and through engaging legislators, he won much needed support and eventually negotiated a viable solution. That success allowed the ESF to secure necessary capital for campus refurbishment, as well as ensuring that the gradual phasing out of subsidies would not affect existing students in ESF schools.

Mr Tong also campaigns for special educational needs. As the father of a 25-year-old adopted son with mild intellectual disabilities, he fully understands the heavy demands in this learning area. With his acumen and negotiation skills, he succeeded in retaining annual government funding for the Jockey Club Sarah Roe School and learning support centres for children with special needs, and launched the Nomination Rights scheme for individuals and corporations to secure funding for future capital projects.

Furthermore, since his appointment as Chairman of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in 2012, Mr Tong has successfully lobbied the Jockey Club to provide sizeable funding of HK\$103 million for the construction of a barrier-free multi-purpose sports complex for paralympic athletes.

Hardware aside, Mr Tong is equally concerned about the educational needs and long term career development of the sporting elite in Hong Kong. Under his leadership, the HKSI launched an initiative to provide a sustainable education model for elite sportspeople in collaboration with The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd). In a move that will help retired athletes on their career paths and attract more young people to professional sport, the HKSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HKIEd in April 2014, with the Institute offering part-time places in its Bachelor of Health Education programme to HKSI recommended athletes. Mr Tong also recently joined HKIEd's Presidential Advisory Group to provide invaluable inputs to the Institute's development.

Mr Chairman, on behalf of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, in recognition of his contribution to the community and education, I present Mr Carlson Tong for the award of Honorary Fellowship.



## Citation for Mr George Wong Yui-lam, Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

With a pioneering spirit of sustained innovation, Mr George Wong Yui-lam, Chairman and Founder of Bauhaus Holdings Limited, has repeatedly led his company to scale new heights over the years. As his business thrives, he remains true to his original vision as an educator, and sets an inspiring example for the younger generation. Actively involved in charitable causes for children with intellectual disabilities, he has also shown great care and concern for special education while continuing to put his vision of education into practice.

Born into a working class family, Mr Wong spent much of his childhood in the wet market where his father worked as a chicken vendor. His performance during his earlier years in school was not very satisfactory, and it was not until his primary six year that he encountered Mr Wong Shun-hing, a teacher whose dedication and nurturing approach helped him make exceptional improvements. The experience inspired him to devote himself to a teaching career. Upon graduation from secondary school, Mr Wong pursued his dream in education despite his father's wish and previous arrangement for him to join the family business. Before the opportunity to enter a college of education became available, Mr Wong first taught in a private school. Although his income was meagre, he felt no resentment or regret.

In 1981, as he had wanted, he graduated from the Sir Robert Black College of Education and started teaching at the C.C.C. Mongkok Church Kai Oi School, a school for children with special needs. He was deeply moved by the extraordinary sense of joy and innocence often displayed by children with mild intellectual disabilities, and became even more dedicated to teaching while forming a strong bond with his students and their parents. Mr Wong was adept at helping his students to build confidence through extracurricular activities. While teaching at the Tack Ching Primary School of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, he led a group of students who were struggling academically to prepare for their graduation performance. He also worked extremely hard in the preparation process, learning how to perform backflips through practising with his students. The performance was a great success and gave his students a huge sense of satisfaction. "Do not look down on yourself. If you believe you can, you will make it!" These are the words he used to encourage his students, and they became his own belief.

After a stint in education of about a decade, Mr Wong launched into business, founding the fashion company Bauhaus. As owner, he is deeply involved in every aspect of the business, from shop floor management and product design through to the fabric dyeing process. With a keen eye for nuanced details and unique insights, he has grown his company into a leading Hong Kong fashion brand. Yet instead of resting on his laurels, he constantly reminds himself to review the company's future direction so that it will progress with time and reinvent itself. In recent years, Mr Wong enrolled in an Executive MBA programme to further broaden his vision and seek new breakthroughs. In the programme, he came across a concept that advocates one to constantly "Learn; Unlearn; Relearn", which became one of his mottos.

Business aside, Mr Wong remains committed to his original vision as an educator. He often uses his own working-class background and entrepreneurial journey to encourage his frontline sales representatives, many of whom are young people whose confidence has been undermined by poor academic performance. He often encourages them to learn from the company's daily operations and use such knowledge and experiences to inform their own ventures when pursuing their dreams. His patient and nurturing approach allows these young people to see that upward mobility is indeed possible.

Mr Wong often reminisces about the time spent with his mentally challenged students, and among his cherished possessions is a worn toolbox that one of them made. He also employs some of his former students. Outside of work, he is a volunteer cycling coach at his old school, and sponsors the organisation of unicycle courses for students. He notices that students who have received unicycle training show marked

improvement in concentration, and autistic students also learn to offer and seek help more proactively after some cycling training. Surprised and delighted by such results, he has continually donated to the school's unicycle training programme. In addition, he has actively sponsored the school's students to receive training outside of Hong Kong. He also often returns to the school to lead extracurricular activities, which provide students with more opportunities to broaden their horizons. He is planning to return to education upon retirement, so that he can realise his vision of special education by offering a more comprehensive educational experience and life skills training for students with disabilities.