

Citation for Dr Charles Chen Yidan

Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman,

Dr Charles Chen Yidan, founder of the Yidan Prize, is a devoted follower and practitioner of Confucianism, especially the motto of *The Great Learning*, one of the classic *Four Books* in Confucian philosophy. *The Great Learning* begins by teaching the importance of “illustrating illustrious virtue, renovating the people, and resting in the highest excellence”. Dr Chen has generously donated to schools, teaching young people about life and dealing with others, as well as leading the establishment of the Tencent Charity Foundation. His passion for education befits his given name in Chinese, which reflects his wholehearted commitment to education. In recent years, he has invested heavily to set up a global education prize to recognise and support outstanding individuals in the sector, and to nurture the most talented.

Dr Chen grew up under the tutelage of his grandmother and experienced the power of education in childhood. His grandmother grew up in the midst of war and famine, and had to raise her son on her own as her husband went to look for work in South East Asia. Despite various misfortunes and hardships, Dr Chen’s father managed to make himself the pride of his family by being the very first university student from the village. Later he moved from his hometown of Chaoyang to Huizhou, and finally settled in Shenzhen. Although Dr Chen’s grandmother had not received any formal education, she accompanied him throughout with love and care, and encouraged him to study hard and be kind to others. Her caring advice and unconditional love formed the basis of Dr Chen’s dedication to education and charity.

With the firm belief that knowledge is power and that education can change destiny, Dr Chen graduated from Shenzhen University with a bachelor’s degree in Applied Chemistry and went on to pursue a master’s degree in Economic Law at the Law School of Nanjing University. A few years after graduation, he co-founded Tencent with Mr Ma Huateng and their common friends since high school and university. In 2004, Tencent Holdings Limited was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Dr Chen became the Chief Administration Officer of the company, overseeing the administration, legal matters, intellectual property, policy development and human resources, managing over 10,000 employees. As a partner working alongside Dr Chen over the years, Mr Ma has praised him for his integrity, friendliness and affection for those around him, which has made him a charismatic leader and a strong manager. Today, Tencent is one of the world’s leading technology giants, with its communication and social media services connecting over a billion people worldwide.

In 2007, Dr Chen led the establishment of the Tencent Charity Foundation, making it an inspiration in the industry. He leveraged the mobilising power and strength of the internet to set up an emergency disaster-relief mechanism for the 2008 winter storms in central and southern China, enabling members of the public to locate missing relatives online. After the Wenchuan earthquake in the same year, he launched an online donation platform and raised over RMB 23 million – a world record for philanthropic donations via the internet.

Dr Chen believes that education can enhance human wellbeing and promote societal improvement. In 2009, he invested a total of RMB 2 billion in the establishment of Wuhan College, the first non-profit, privately-run tertiary institution on the mainland. His motto for the college is ‘Virtue. Innovation. Truth. Action. (V. I. T. A.)’. Students are expected to understand the meaning of traditional culture and to promote virtue and integrity to break with old traditions, innovate and strive for perfection. They are also encouraged to develop a global perspective and patriotic sentiment.

In 2013, Dr Chen became Advisor Emeritus of Tencent and Honorary Chairman of the Tencent Charity Foundation, devoting himself to culture, charity and education. In the same year, he donated funds to set up the Shenzhen Chen Yidan Foundation and Shenzhen Mingde Experimental School.

In 2016, Dr Chen donated HK\$2.5 billion to launch the Yidan Prize, a global education accolade that awards HK\$60 million annually to individuals or teams who have made an outstanding contribution to education. He topped the 13th annual China Charity Ranking in the same year, and was listed first in the Forbes China Philanthropy List the following year, earning him the accolades of ‘Father of Internet Philanthropy’ and ‘Pioneer of Chinese Internet Philanthropy’.

In 2018, Dr Chen donated over HK\$4 billion in Tencent shares to establish a charitable trust to promote education. He also served as a member of the founding council of Westlake University in Hangzhou. At the same time, he continued to further his studies and obtained a PhD in Business Administration in 2019 from Singapore Management University.

Dr Chen’s pursuit of learning and passion for education are highly regarded by universities around the world. In 2019, he became a member of the Global Advisory Council of Harvard University and a member of the International Advisory Board of Singapore Management University. In 2021, he was appointed as a Court Member of The University of Hong Kong. In recognition of his enormous contribution to the education sector, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong conferred honorary doctorates in humanities and social science on him in 2017 and 2020, respectively.

Mr Chairman, Dr Chen is widely acclaimed for his vision and wisdom, and generous investment in education to help nurture the future pillars of society. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Dr Charles Chen Yidan, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Citation for Professor Ge Zhaoguang

Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman,

Professor Ge Zhaoguang is an expert in analysing historical evidence and has studied the history of Chinese thought with great meticulousness and insight. He is a distinguished professor at the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies and at the Department of History at Fudan University. Professor Ge displays the ideal attributes advocated by renowned Tang Dynasty historian Liu Zhiji in his interpretation of the fundamentals of studying and writing about history. These are the ability to compose historical works, a rich knowledge of history and historical materials, and deep insight, which enables the analysis and evaluation of history. In this light, Professor Ge is an exemplary scholar, who has written extensively and ethically on historiography.

Like many other Chinese youths born in the 1950s, Professor Ge left the city for the countryside during the Cultural Revolution. Despite living in a cramped barn, he read books voraciously to quench his thirst for knowledge. He worked at a rural brick and tile factory, a pesticide plant, and a supply and marketing cooperative. It was not until the end of the Cultural Revolution that at the age of 28, he was among the first batch of students at Peking University after the resumption of the college entrance examinations. Immersed in a liberal and strong academic atmosphere, he studied classical literature at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, engaging in extensive reading in literature, history and philosophy, and consequently establishing a solid research foundation and handling historical materials with meticulous attention to detail.

Professor Ge was deeply influenced by the May Fourth Movement and responded enthusiastically to its philosophy of “reorganising national heritage and recreating civilisation”. He regarded Mr Hu Shih, the founder and leader of the New Culture Movement, as a role model during his academic journey, particularly because of Hu’s consistently moderate rationality and firm stance. After graduation, Professor Ge began studying Zen Buddhism from the perspective of cultural history. His first book, *Zen Buddhism and Chinese Culture*, was published in 1986 and was awarded the first-ever China Book Prize in 1988.

In 1998, Professor Ge published his magnum opus, *A History of Chinese Thought*. Taking into account the ancient context and realities of life, the book challenged the conventional historical interpretations and historiographical traditions and opened up a new chapter in the study of the history of Chinese thought. The first edition of 10,000 copies was sold out within six months, and its approach became a hot topic for discussion among academics.

Despite his fame, Professor Ge has continued to work tirelessly, publishing books such as *A History of Chinese Zen Buddhist Thought: From the 6th to 10th Century*, *Here in 'China' I Dwell: Reconstructing Historical Discourses of China for Our Time*, and *What Is China: Territory, Ethnicity, Culture, and History*, which were internationally acclaimed. In recent years, he has been proactively promoting the research approach of 'viewing China from the periphery', encouraging students to broaden their historical horizons, to compare and explain historical transitions from a macro perspective, and to search for new meanings. His books subsequently won significant awards in the United States, South Korea and Japan after they were translated into English, Korean and Japanese.

Professor Ge is also passionate about teaching, and his lectures are as well-crafted as his writing. From 1984 to 1992, he was an associate professor at the Department of History at Yangzhou Normal College (now Yangzhou University). Between 1992 and 2006, he was a professor at the School of Humanities of Tsinghua University. He then became a visiting scholar and adjunct professor at Chicago University, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, Kyoto University as well as Tokyo University in Japan, and City University of Hong Kong, among others. During this period, he published *Records of Lectures in the Study of History of Thought* (2005) and *Records of Lectures in the Study of History of Thought cont. Volume* (2012) and others. Meanwhile, he still found time to contribute his expertise to the consolidation of ancient texts and advisory on history education.

Professor Ge's teenage experiences gave him a deep appreciation of the complexities of history and society, and resulted in his great affection for the former throughout his career. Looking back, he adopted a positive attitude to hardship and reflected on his successes and failures. In 2007, Professor Ge joined Fudan University, where he was the founding director of the National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies. In that role, he advocated the importance of humanistic care and critical minds, while stepping out of the ivory tower to inspire young people and benefit society.

In 2009, Professor Ge was appointed one of the first Princeton Global Scholars at Princeton University and was a visiting professor there from 2010 to 2013.

Mr Chairman, Professor Ge is a leading figure in academia, particularly in the history of Chinese thought. He is widely acclaimed for his strong commitment to societal care, his extensive reading, and his study of Chinese history from a global perspective. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I am honoured to present to you Professor Ge Zhaoguang, and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

Citation for Dr Zhang Yimou

Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman,

Dr Zhang Yimou has a global reputation for his iconic approach to film-making, which consistently conveys a sense of historical responsibility and humanistic concern through the visual medium. Throughout his career, Dr Zhang has received numerous awards for his exceptionally creative output, which is celebrated for its vibrant colour and highly detailed approach. He is also the only film director to have organised the opening and closing ceremonies for both Summer and Winter Olympic Games. He presented Chinese cultural heritage with a well-crafted, breath-taking approach through these high-profile international events to millions of viewers around the world.

Born in the 1950s, Dr Zhang was passionate about painting from a young age. He fell in love with photography while working in a cotton factory and began documenting the places, people and rituals in that environment. Completely enthralled by the art form, he spent his hard-earned savings on this passion, and he was soon rewarded with first prize in a national photography competition.

Despite his exceptional talent, Dr Zhang still had to work hard to realise his dream of studying at the Beijing Film Academy and appealed directly to the Minister of Culture to get in, against all odds. His persistence and outstanding performance eventually paid off, and he became a top student at the Academy, earning excellent grades year after year.

After graduating, Dr Zhang joined the Guangxi Film Studio, and as the director of photography, debuted in the film *One and Eight*. For this first project, he won the Outstanding Photography category at the Chinese Film Awards. In 1986, Dr Zhang starred in the leading role in *Old Well* to critical acclaim. He went on to win Best Actor at the Golden Rooster Awards and the Hundred Flowers Awards, and at the Tokyo International Film Festival.

In 1988, he returned to working behind the camera, debuting as director with *Red Sorghum*. The film masterfully captures the inner world of its characters, blending narrative, lyricism, realism and imagery in a rich, colourful and bold style. *Red Sorghum* is the manifestation of Dr Zhang's interpretation of films as classical Chinese poetry. The film celebrates the fervent patriotic spirit of the Chinese people, and won Best Drama at the 8th Golden Rooster Awards, Best Drama at the 11th Hundred Flowers Awards, and the Golden Bear for Best Picture at the 38th Berlin International Film Festival, placing him at the forefront of the cinematic world.

In 1990, his film *Ju Dou* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, making it the first Chinese-language film to be nominated at the Oscars. Later, *Raise the Red Lantern* was nominated for the same award, as well as winning a Silver Lion Award at the 48th Venice International Film Festival and the International Federation of Film Critics Award. Two years later, *The Story of Qiu Ju* went one step further, winning the Golden Lion Award at Venice and Best Film at the 13th Golden Rooster Awards.

2002 marked a watershed year in Dr Zhang's career. His commercial film *Hero* pulled the curtain back on a new era of Chinese blockbusters. His subsequent works, including *House of Flying Daggers*, *Curse of the Golden Flower* and *The Flowers of War*, all targeted the international market, while twice setting new box office records in China. His works also topped annual Chinese box office takings for Chinese-language films four times, establishing Dr Zhang a household name as a director.

In 2008, at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, Dr Zhang used an ancient Chinese sundial to start the ceremony, skilfully incorporating mass performances to showcase four great Chinese inventions. It was a magnificent event of unparalleled grandeur, mesmerising the global audience. In the same year, Dr Zhang won the 'You Bring Charm to the World' award and was named one of the 'Top Ten People who Moved China'.

In 2010, Dr Zhang was conferred an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts by Yale University, which hailed him as "a genius with camera and choreography", whose work "has portrayed China in all its glory, complexity and charm". His 2018 film *Shadow* drew on the Chinese ink-and-wash painting tradition to present a highly stylised cinematic world, using black and white as the key colours. In the same year, Dr Zhang won the Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker award at the 75th Venice International Film Festival. He was the first Chinese filmmaker to receive this honour and to be conferred an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Boston University.

In 2019, Dr Zhang served as chief director of the celebration gala at the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic of China. He was subsequently appointed as chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics. Currently, Beijing is the only 'Double Olympic city', and Dr Zhang is the only 'Double Olympic Director'. At the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, he used the traditional Chinese 24 solar terms as the main theme, incorporating innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality, to bring Tang dynasty Chinese poet Li Bai's prose to life. The visuals he created were striking yet subtle, in portraying the turbulent flow of the raging Yellow River. Through the Olympic ceremonies, Dr Zhang demonstrated his

varied artistic styles, from the grandeur of the 2008 version to the elegance of 2022.

Now in his 70s, Dr Zhang is still deeply passionate about the art of film, and there are no signs of him slowing down. In recent years, three of his works have been released – *One Second*, *Cliff Walkers* and *Snipers*.

Mr Chairman, Dr Zhang has immense talent and boundless creativity, but he is also humble, often claiming that only half of his success is attributable to talent, and that the other half is from the training he has received. Over the years, his pursuit of perfection and artistic breakthroughs has never ceased. It is my pleasure and privilege to present Dr Zhang Yimou and request on behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

Citation for Dr Lee Yiu-fai (Yee Kok), MH Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman,

As Abbot of the Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple, Dr Lee Yiu-fai (Yee Kok) follows Master Wong Tai Sin's teaching of 'acting benevolently and teaching benevolence', performing charitable acts without vying for fame in the preaching of Taoism and the promotion of traditional Chinese culture. Dr Lee's noble deeds echo the thoughts of the 'water' metaphor in iconic Taoist philosopher Laozi's *Tao Te Ching* and its implication for virtuous acts.

In his early 20s, Dr Lee graduated from the Grantham College of Education in 1960, followed by a stint in teaching at two schools. Driven by a mission to protect the innocent from harm, he later joined the police force, serving for 33 years. During that period, he worked diligently with a strong commitment, serving as a police academy instructor. His outstanding performance was commended by the then Commissioner of Police.

Dr Lee became a devout Taoist in 1985, when he was struck by the unexpected arrest of a fugitive suspect in a murder case. The suspect was brought to justice after he ran into a uniformed policeman, who arrested him on the spot. Dr Lee came to realise the long arm of the law and the essence of justice in the context of Taoism, and began to participate in Sik Sik Yuen's voluntary work on different fronts.

After retiring from the police force in 1994, Dr Lee dedicated his time to Sik Sik Yuen. He was elected Abbot of the Wong Tai Sin Temple in 2006 and has held this important position since then. Since 2005, he has spared no effort to advance the development of Sik Sik Yuen, including offering ritual courses on repentance, training talent internally and promoting cultural heritage. Improvements have also been made to the usage of the Temple facilities. To give back to society, Dr Lee has taken up dozens of public appointments and voluntary work.

Sik Sik Yuen celebrated its centenary anniversary last year. It has established six kindergartens and eight primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong to date, in addition to five elderly care homes. It received a partnership award from the Hong Kong Red Cross in recognition of its support for blood donation activities. Every year, over 100,000 people benefit from Sik Sik Yuen's projects and initiatives. In 2016, Dr Lee was awarded the Medal of Honour by the HKSAR Government.

In 2011, Dr Lee was awarded an honorary degree in Taoism by the World Medicine Institute. A keen lifelong learner, he obtained a Master of Arts degree in Chinese Culture from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2012.

Dr Lee has actively advocated the cultural value of Wong Tai Sin beliefs and customs, which were eventually inscribed on the National List of Intangible

Cultural Heritage of China in 2014. He has also been a proponent of cultural conservation. The Cultural Centre for Wong Tai Sin Beliefs and Customs – a project he led and steered to conserve and promote invaluable cultural inheritance for the wider community – became operational in 2021. The Centre integrates high-end technology with novel displays, and guided tours are specially arranged for students. Dr Lee is now working on the planning of a Sik Sik Yuen cultural and art garden which will serve as a platform for the harmonious blend of Taoism and art.

On the occasion of HKSAR's 25th anniversary, Sik Sik Yuen built a flag-raising platform in the Wong Tai Sin Temple to further the tradition of patriotism and love for Hong Kong – the first such initiative in a major religious venue in Hong Kong.

Thanks to the generous donations of Sik Sik Yuen and four other school-sponsoring and religious organisations, the University established the Centre for Religious and Spirituality Education in 2006 to foster the development of life and values education in Hong Kong and the Greater China region. Its mission is to cultivate positive values in students for character building and whole-person development. Dr Lee was appointed the Centre's honorary adviser, and he serves as the chief adviser for a project undertaken by the Centre to strengthen students' core values through multimedia learning on local religious buildings.

Mr Chairman, Dr Lee has devoted himself to religious and spiritual education for over three decades, benefitting countless students. With his deep affection for the country, he preaches and practises the teaching and philosophy of Taoism. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, may I present Dr Lee Yiu-fai (Yee Kok) to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Dr Ma Kai-yum Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman,

People from Chiu Chow, in the province of Guangdong, are famous for their drive for success, shrewd judgement and strategic decisiveness. Chiu Chow native and Chairman of Carrianna Group Holdings Company Limited, Dr Ma Kai-yum certainly epitomises these outstanding qualities. His extensive business experience has made him aware of the importance of continuous improvement and embracing challenges. This, he believes, enables him to turn crises into opportunities. Through his school supervisory role, he is eager to see students become good citizens who are affectionate to their country, have noble character and balanced development in the domains of ethics, intellect, physical activity, social skills and aesthetics.

Born into a poor family, Dr Ma grew up in an area for temporary resettlement. After finishing secondary school, he entered the garment industry, starting as an apprentice. In 1967, he and his elder brother worked together to establish Tak Sing, their first business in Hong Kong. Starting as a family business in outsourced garments using only two sewing machines, it gradually developed into a multinational group with diverse businesses, covering property, trade, hotels and catering.

Thanks to his visionary insight, macro perspective and strong business acumen, he remained ahead in an operating environment which was often affected by external factors. He has had to overcome many challenges in the business world over the years. In the 1980s, Dr Ma collaborated with a designer in the United States, providing capital for his partner to design products for the American market. Because of unimpressive sales performance after significant investment, he flew to the United States in an attempt to save the business. Regrettably, the rescue did not work out, and he eventually took the bold step of clearing out the inventory by selling all the finished products at less than one-tenth of the normal price. However, the proceeds enabled him to get back on track and gain a foothold in the industry. In hindsight, Dr Ma said he believed that all setbacks in life were nothing more than a 'grinding stone', making us even sharper and stronger. For him, only by confronting challenges and overcoming difficulties could he beat the odds and forge a brighter future.

Later, with a special craving for his hometown cuisine, Dr Ma acquired Carrianna Chiu Chow Restaurant and started to make his mark in the food industry. This key decision presented new opportunities for his company's transformation. During that period, there was keen demand for high-end dining as a result of thriving business activity. Dr Ma opened more than a dozen Carrianna restaurants, one after another, in major cities in the mainland. In 1991, Tak Sing Alliance

Holdings Limited was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The funds raised were used to expand its property development and hotel business on the mainland.

In recognition and commendation of his significant contribution to society, Dr Ma was the laureate of the World Outstanding Chinese Award and was conferred an honorary doctorate by Morrison University in the United States in 2004. In 2008, Dr Ma decided to end his business operations in the garment industry sector in a corporate overhaul. In 2013, Tak Sing Alliance was officially renamed Carrianna Group Holdings Company Limited to leverage the brand for better development.

With great affection for his hometown, Dr Ma has consistently given back to the local Chiu Chow community. He is a leader in multiple Chiu Chow associations, including Executive Vice Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community Organisations Limited, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce, and Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association. He is also Honorary Chairman of a number of Chiu Chow organisations. He is passionate about uniting and mobilising the Chiu Chow community for the betterment and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Dr Ma cares deeply about the education of future generations. Through the Chiu Chow associations he leads, he dedicates considerable time and resources to nurture students. He hopes that young people will study diligently, start life-planning early, face various challenges bravely as they grow up, and reflect on setbacks. Dr Ma is currently the Supervisor of Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Secondary School, where learning and teaching standards have improved over the years under his leadership. Adopting the motto ‘Be virtuous, be knowledgeable’, the school puts special emphasis on the diligent and down-to-earth character of the Chiu Chow people.

Dr Ma advocates the importance of Chinese history education, which he hopes can cultivate youngsters’ sense of gratitude and affection for their family and country. It is his belief that young people should remember their roots with an objective and comprehensive understanding of the country, as well as having a sense of respect for teachers. He set an example in 2019, by making a generous donation to The Education University of Hong Kong to promote teacher education. In recognition of Dr Ma’s selfless devotion, one of the lecture theatres on campus is named after him.

Mr Chairman, Dr Ma demonstrates a strong spirit of optimism and positivity. Rising from obscurity in spite of hardship, he made a name for himself as a Chinese business legend, transforming a garment factory into a catering conglomerate. With a strong attachment to his hometown, he has been a role model in promoting the Chiu Chow culture while contributing to society. On

behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Dr Ma Kai-yum to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Ms Ng Oi-shum Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman,

It is often said that music can break down barriers and cultivate a good temperament. Immersion in music from an early age can help foster kindness and generosity in children. This is the wisdom embodied in the ancient Chinese classic *Liji (Book of Rites)*. That is why Ms Ng Oi-shum, General Manager of Parsons Music Corporation, is committed to advocating music education for all. It is her wish that people from any background can have the opportunity to learn and enjoy music, which can be a conduit to building bridges through cultural exchange and spreading the message of peace.

In the 1970s, after graduating from the Sir Robert Black College of Education, Ms Ng embarked on a teaching career in primary and secondary schools spanning more than two decades. She advocated what she had learnt through an experiential and pleasurable learning approach. This, she believes, can help students develop self-learning capability with a positive attitude. She is particularly concerned about those with learning difficulties and special needs. She joined the volunteer service at the Faculty of Education at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she helped pupils with dyslexia overcome obstacles and improve their reading and writing skills.

After Hong Kong's return to the mainland, the HKSAR Government undertook a comprehensive reform of the education system. As a pioneer in the school sector, Ms Ng insightfully took the initiative to roll out a series of support measures at her school, including the implementation of Information and Communication Technology education, digitalisation planning, network infrastructure, data processing, a technology-enhanced curriculum and teacher training.

In 2000, Ms Ng switched roles, joining Parsons Music Corporation as General Manager in Hong Kong, where she continued to cultivate talent, while expanding the company's product line and focusing on music education. In line with its mission, Parsons strives to promote music and harmony through exchanges for the benefit of the community at large. The company has grown into the world's third largest piano manufacturer, the world's seventh largest musical instrument retailer, and the largest and leading multinational music group in both Hong Kong and the mainland.

Over the years, Ms Ng has stayed true to her people-oriented belief, vowing to use arts and culture to enrich the growth and life of every individual. She has rendered unfailing support to her alma mater through the provision of scholarships at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK). Since 2011, she has been co-ordinating Parsons' entrance scholarship for the Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Music) programme.

Ms Ng also took the lead in establishing the Parsons Volunteer Group, bringing together music enthusiasts from all walks of life. She launched the ‘Music in Hospital’ programme to spread loving care and the power of music in various hospitals and communities. This has been incorporated as part of the University’s co-curricular service learning course ‘Music Health and Wellbeing’, enabling EdUHK students to contribute to the community through music.

Ms Ng has built an extensive social network, which she generously shares with young people. She actively promotes music in Hong Kong and the mainland, by helping improve conditions in areas deprived of sufficient professional teachers, to promote equality in education. She has provided invaluable opportunities for students to unleash their creativity and broaden their horizons by organising trips for faculty and primary and secondary students to China Three Gorges University and Railway Dam Primary School in Yichang City, Wuhan province. One of the highlights was their participation in the Yangtze River Piano Music Festival, a major annual music event in the province. To forge a close relationship between music and creative arts scholars from the two places, Ms Ng facilitates academic exchanges every year on topics such as music cultures from around the world, creative arts activities and pedagogical approaches for the benefit of music education.

Amidst the emergence of artificial intelligence technology and the metaverse, Ms Ng sees the power of technology in breaking down geographical barriers and promoting education equity. Linking experts from Europe, the mainland and Hong Kong, she has been examining the application of information technology and the flexible use of music education resources and platforms to tailor school-based curricula to deprived areas, and to support special education schools to cater for their students’ needs and narrow the learning gap.

Concurrently, Ms Ng is an honorary adviser to the UNESCO Centre for Peace, through which she hopes to unite people with music and promote world peace.

Mr Chairman, Ms Ng is committed to promoting character building and the pursuit of good virtues through music. She has worked tirelessly with her peers in the world of music, to foster talent exchange and collaboration, as well as equality in education. She has been recognised for her passion for, and contribution to, the development and heritage of music and art. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Ms Ng Oi-shum to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Dr Allen Shi Lop-tak, BBS, MH, JP Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman,

Dr Allen Shi Lop-tak, President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, and founder and Chairman of Brilliant International Group Limited, is a distinguished and renowned entrepreneur, who has lived up to the expectations of his parents. His name 'Lop-tak' means 'virtues', which is one of the "three immortalities" in *Zuo Zhuan*, an ancient Chinese narrative classic. In business, charity and education, Dr Shi has acted as an exemplary leader, who upholds the philosophy of 'taking from and giving back to society'.

Dr Shi grew up in a family of modest means, and his mother's encouragement led him to learn a trade in the printing industry on completion of his secondary school education. As a 16-year-old apprentice, he experienced a traumatic accident at work, which resulted in hospitalisation for three months and the loss of three fingers. During his long recovery process, he was grateful for the care and comfort of the hospital staff. This experience taught him the importance of helping others in difficult times and sowed the seeds of his commitment to charity and community service.

Dr Shi later moved into the clothing industry. He was determined to enhance his knowledge and enrolled in evening courses at the then Hong Kong Polytechnic (the predecessor of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)). In 1985, he took the bold step of starting his own business and founded Brilliant Printing Limited, encountering many challenges along the way. His positive, can-do attitude helped him overcome those challenges. He became an industry leader thanks to his hard work, perseverance, high standards, adaptability and willingness to learn. His company is now one of the largest and most sophisticated printing and packaging enterprises in southern China, with decades of excellence behind it. Today, Brilliant's packaging is sold around the world, resulting in steady growth in business volume. Dr Shi believes the key to success is setting clear goals and making an unwavering effort to enhance the quality, creativity and professionalism of the services offered to clients.

In the 1980s, with the policy of national reform and opening up, Dr Shi established a factory in Shenzhen, making Brilliant Printing among the first batch of Hong Kong printing firms to set up business on the mainland. He believed the success of personal achievements and Hong Kong's development were closely connected with the rapid growth of the mainland economy. He has called on his industry peers to take part in the mainland's domestic-international dual-circulation strategy, and has encouraged Hong Kong's young people to deepen their understanding of the motherland and to seize the development opportunities in the Greater Bay Area.

As well as running his own business, Dr Shi has served the community in a number of areas and has been a member of over 80 foundations and organisations. He gives expert advice on training policy, planning and implementation to the Vocational Training Council's Printing and Publishing Training Board, of which he was a member for six years. Dr Shi is also passionate about community projects and charities. He holds key posts in organisations such as the Auxiliary Medical Service Officer's Club, the Merchants Support for Rehabilitated Offenders Committee, and the Hong Kong St. John Ambulance Brigade.

To further his knowledge of management, Dr Shi gained an Executive Master of Business Administration degree at City University of Hong Kong (CityU). He is also a staunch supporter of education and has done sterling work in youth education. For example, he has subsidised students from poor families living in mountain villages in Qinghai, Shanxi and Ningxia to complete their university studies. He has also generously donated to universities to establish scholarships and bursaries. Lecture theatres, lecture halls and executive classrooms at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), CityU and PolyU have been named after him in recognition of his generosity. He is Honorary President of EdUHK Foundation, Honorary Life President of the PolyU Foundation, and a Member of the Court of CityU and Honorary Vice President of its Foundation.

In recognition of his support for education, he has since been named a Fellow by PolyU, the Canadian Chartered Institute of Business Administration, and the Asian Knowledge Management Association. He was made an Honorary Fellow by The Professional Validation Council of Hong Kong Industries, Vocational Training Council and CityU, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Management from Lincoln University in the United States.

To provide synergy between industry and government, Dr Shi has performed different roles in public service. He was a district council member for eight years and is a Committee Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a Member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, and an Honorary Fellow of the Greater Bay Area Economic and Trade Association. In recognition of his contribution to society and industry, Dr Shi was bestowed the Medal of Honour in 2007, made a Justice of the Peace in 2010, and awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2017 by the HKSAR Government.

Mr Chairman, Dr Allen Shi Lop-tak has shown an unyielding attitude in facing challenges. His innovative business management has helped him build a globally renowned printing kingdom, step by step. He has also been widely acclaimed for his contribution to society and support for local universities. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I present Dr Shi to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

Citation for Mr So Wa-wai, BBS, MH Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman,

Having won six Paralympic gold medals and broken multiple world records, Mr So Wa-wai has repeatedly made history throughout his career as an athlete. Despite his congenital condition, the now-retired athlete displayed an unyielding spirit on the running track over the years, earning him the nickname ‘Magic Kid’ in Hong Kong.

Mr So was born in Guangzhou in 1981. He had jaundice from birth, a condition that caused him permanent brain damage, affecting his muscle movement and the use of his limbs. His condition also caused a hearing impairment, which required him to wear a hearing aid. In 1983, Mr So moved to Hong Kong with his family and continued to receive hospital treatment.

His physical limitations meant that he could take his first steps only at the age of four. It was a hard-fought battle and took a huge amount of effort. Nevertheless, he has refused to be stopped by the various obstacles to move forward since birth. From a young age, he loved running, and physical education was his favourite subject at school.

In 1989, when he was almost eight years old, Mr So finally started primary school. His outstanding performance in physical education classes impressed his teachers, and he was selected to participate in the track competition of the Hong Kong Annual Athletics Meet for the Disabled, where he won several medals. This was merely the beginning of a remarkable journey from a child who simply enjoyed the pleasure of cool breezes brushing past his cheeks when he ran to becoming a legendary athlete, who triumphed against all odds.

In 1994, while still in primary school, he won a gold medal at the annual Athletics Meet for the Disabled. He was noticed by Mr Poon Kin-lui and Mr Choi Hei-fung, the two coaches who eventually played a pivotal role in his training. Under their guidance, Mr So began his professional training, improving his fitness, increasing his speed, adjusting his running gait and improving his starting position.

Just two years later, Mr So was selected to take part in the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games, where he represented Hong Kong for the first time. In his debut, he was a member of the 4x100m relay team, which won the gold medal. In the 2000 Paralympic Games in Sydney, Mr So won the 100m, 200m and 400m events and set three world records. In 2004, he won another gold medal in the men's 200m T36 at the Athens Games.

At the Beijing Paralympics in 2008, the ‘Magic Kid’ won the 100m bronze medal and finished sixth in the 400m. His drive to achieve greater results came with tremendous pressure, which he felt more acutely than ever. Fortunately, with the encouragement of his parents, Mr So made the psychological adjustment and won gold in the 200m, setting a new world record of 24.65 seconds. His victory was a stirring moment, greeted by enthusiastic applause throughout the entire National Stadium.

Since 1996, Mr So took part in five consecutive Paralympic Games, winning six gold medals, three silver and three bronze. He achieved many personal breakthroughs and world records. He still holds the Paralympic record for the men's 200m in the T36 classification. Behind his success were years of tough, intensive training, together with blood, sweat and tears. Occasionally, he encountered problems with his hearing aid, which prevented him from hearing the starting pistol, made him nervous and affected his performance. In the eyes of the public, Mr So’s inborn disability had held him back right from the beginning. In his own eyes, however, hard work and perseverance marked the true starting point of his success.

Mr So's sporting achievements, along with his relentless spirit, have moved and inspired many. Since 2000, he has won eight Hong Kong Sports Stars Awards. In 2005, he was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in Hong Kong, and was awarded a Medal of Honour by the HKSAR Government in the same year. In 2008, he was voted the ‘Star of Stars’ among fellow athletes.

In 2021, his story was adapted into a film that received many accolades. It depicted his journey to becoming a star athlete and his incredible bond with his mother, Mrs So Hon Siu-ching. The ‘Magic Kid’ hopes his popularity can raise public awareness of athletes with disabilities and gain greater support for them. In 2016, upon retiring from his 20-year career as an athlete, he joined the Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Disabled and then the Hong Kong Paralympic Committee, supporting other athletes with disabilities.

Mr Chairman, Mr So has demonstrated a positive and fearless attitude, perseverance and dedication, and his remarkable feats on the running track have been truly inspirational and extraordinary. His touching story is the manifestation of ‘Spirit in Motion’, which represents the essence of the Paralympic Games. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, may I present Mr So Wa-wai to you for the award of Honorary Fellowship.