

CITATION FOR
Professor James J. Gross
Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Professor James J. Gross for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Professor James J. Gross is a preeminent scholar in psychology, with a particular focus on the area of emotion and emotion regulation. He is the inaugural Ernest R. Hilgard Professor of Psychology at Stanford University, where he directs the Stanford Center for Affective Science and the Stanford Psychophysiology Laboratory. Since 2023, he has also held a courtesy appointment as Professor of Philosophy at Stanford.

His ground-breaking research delves into the intricacies of emotions, emotion coherence and emotion regulation strategies across both healthy and clinical populations. Professor Gross's process model of emotion regulation has established a foundational framework of modern emotion regulation theory, inspiring research across various fields, including affective science, clinical science, political science and business.

Professor Gross developed a passion for psychology while at Yale University, where he graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in Philosophy, in 1987. Thereafter, he spent a year in the United Kingdom, as a graduate visiting student at Linacre College, University of Oxford. Driven by the prospect of answering the age-old question of how emotions might be regulated so as to maximise well-being, he earned a Berkeley Graduate Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, along with a predoctoral fellowship on the United States government's National Institute of Mental Health training programme in emotion research. At Berkeley, he completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology in 1993, and was mentored by the distinguished scholar in psychological sciences, Robert W. Levenson. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, Professor Gross joined Stanford University in 1994, as Assistant to Full Professor of Psychology and progressing to Professor in 2008.

In his research, Professor Gross has developed the influential process model of emotion regulation, one of the most vibrant areas in modern psychology. He employs both experimental and individual-difference methods, and has defined this area as "processes that influence which emotions one has, when one has them, and how one experiences and expresses these emotions." His model identifies five key emotion regulation strategies – situation selection, situation modification, attentional deployment, cognitive change, and response modulation – each occurring at different time points in the emotion experience. He has found that people can regulate their emotions by trying to change any of the emotion components. They may change their facial expression and vocal tone, suppress their thoughts, increase or decrease their physiological arousal, and even change their subjective feelings. For this work, he has been recognised with many prestigious awards, including

being made a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Tursky Award in 1991 and the Early Career Award in 2000 from the Society for Psychophysiological Research. In 2015, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Social and Affective Neuroscience Society and, earlier this year, he was honoured with the Grawemeyer Award for Psychology from the University of Louisville.

Since 2019, Professor Gross has been ranked in the top 0.01% of scientists in terms of impact. He has over 650 publications, which have been cited more than 250,000 times. He recently co-edited the third edition of the *Handbook of Emotion Regulation*, which was published in 2024, and has written chapters for the *International Handbook of Emotions in Education* (2014), *The Dark and Light Sides of Positive Emotion* (2014) and the *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Psychology* (2013), among others.

Professor Gross's teaching has included introductory psychology as well as advanced seminars on emotion and emotion regulation. For two decades, he was Director of the Psychology One Program at Stanford, and supervises students at undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels. In 2023, he returned to Yale as a Visiting Professor, where he held a clinical colloquium on emotion regulation. Throughout his career, Professor Gross has received a number of teaching and mentoring awards, including the Stanford Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize, the Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching (Stanford's highest honour for teaching), the Stanford Postdoctoral Mentoring Award (twice), the Society for Affective Science Inaugural Mentorship Award, and the APS Mentoring Award from the Association for Psychological Science.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Gross is Co-founding President for the Society for Affective Science. He was Associate Editor of the American Psychological Association journal *Emotion* between 2006 and 2010 and Founding Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Affective Science*, the official journal of the Society for Affective Science, between 2019 and 2022. He founded the Emotion Research Group in 1993, and was a member of the United States National Consortium on Violence Research's 'Working Group on Cognitive and Biological Processes in Violent Decision Making' between 1997 and 1999.

He is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, the American Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Society of Experimental Psychologists. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to psychology, he has received Honorary Doctorates from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium and Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

Mr Chairman, Professor Gross is globally acclaimed for his pioneering work in teaching and research in the field of emotion regulation. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor James J. Gross for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Education.

CITATION FOR
Professor Lawrence J. Lau, GBS, JP
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Professor Lawrence J. Lau for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. Professor Lau is a world-renowned economist, who has long been engaged in research on economic theory, econometrics, economic development and economic policy. His extraordinary journey from being an exceptional student to a globally recognised scholar, holding pivotal advisory roles in economic policy and giving longstanding service in higher education along the way, exemplifies the power of intellectual curiosity, diligence and dedication.

Professor Lau's early life was marked by remarkable success at school. He attended St Paul's Co-educational College and graduated with an impressive nine distinctions in his secondary school examinations in 1961 – a very rare feat in 1960s Hong Kong. He then enrolled at Stanford University in the USA, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics with Great Distinction in 1964. He continued his studies at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Economics in 1966 and 1969, respectively.

Professor Lau has always attributed his success to relentless effort and hard work as opposed to innate talent. This dedication to diligence has been a hallmark of his career, driving his prolific research output and his commitment to tackling challenging economic problems.

Professor Lau's contributions to the field of economics are extensive and diverse, encompassing research interests in economic theory, econometrics, economic development, economic growth, East Asia economies, and international trade. In 1966, he developed one of the first econometric models of China, a ground-breaking achievement that demonstrated his foresight and innovative approach to economic analysis, as well as demonstrating his early interest in and understanding of the Chinese economy. In 1979, he became one of the first western-trained economists to visit post-Cultural Revolution China, as part of an official US delegation of economists. This visit ushered in his decades-long examination of economic reform and economic policy in China, with his expertise most notably highlighted in the advice on currency policy he provided to the Chinese government during the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Professor Lau's illustrious career includes significant tenures at Stanford University, beginning in 1966, where he became Professor of Economics in 1976, the first Kwoh-Ting Li Professor in Economic Development in 1992, and Kwoh-Ting Li Professor in Economic Development, Emeritus in 2006. He has also served as a Co-Director of the Asia-Pacific Research Center and Director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. His academic contributions are vast, with over 220 articles published in

professional journals and numerous books that address pressing economic issues, including *Is the Chinese Economy a Miracle or a Bubble?*, *The COVID-19 Epidemic in China*, *The China-U.S. Trade War and Future Economic Relations*, and *Are There Laws of Innovation?* His research has profoundly influenced the understanding of East Asian economies and their developmental trajectories.

In 2004, amidst a challenging period for The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Professor Lau returned to Hong Kong to serve as Vice-Chancellor (President). His decision to leave his position at Stanford University underscores his deep commitment to the enhancement of higher education in Hong Kong. During his tenure, he championed the internationalisation of CUHK, striving to transform it into a globally competitive institution. Under his leadership, the University saw a significant increase in the enrolment of international students, fostering a more diverse and enriching academic environment.

Professor Lau's vision for CUHK extended beyond expanding its global footprint to preserving and promoting Chinese culture. He has emphasised the importance of cultural exchange, advocating for a curriculum that bridges Eastern and Western philosophies. His initiatives aim to provide students with a holistic education that prepares them for the complexities of a globalised world while grounding them in their cultural heritage.

Beyond his university leadership, Professor Lau boasts an impressive record of professional and public services, serving on the editorial boards of prestigious journals including the *Journal of Econometrics*, *The Review of Economic Studies*, *Economics Letters* and *Asian Development Review*, in addition to lending his expertise to prominent international organisations such as the Asian Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, and the World Bank.

Professor Lau served two consecutive terms on the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) between 2008 and 2018. He was a Vice-Chairman of the CPPCC's 11th Sub-Committee of Population, Resources and Environment from 2010 to 2013, and a Vice-Chairman of its 12th Sub-Committee of Economics from 2013 to 2018. He is currently a member of the Currency Board Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee at the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. His insights have significantly shaped policies on economic development, resource management, and environmental sustainability in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Recognised globally for his contributions, Professor Lau has received numerous honorary doctorates from esteemed institutions in Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, the Mainland and Taiwan. He has also been elected a Fellow of the Econometric Society and an Academician of Academia Sinica, Taipei, underscoring his esteemed status among peers. Currently, he serves as the Ralph and Claire Landau Professor of Economics at the Lau Chor Tak Institute of Global Economics and Finance at CUHK, and as Chairman of the Board of the Shenzhen Finance Institute at CUHK-Shenzhen, continuing to inspire future generations of economists.

Mr Chairman, Professor Lau's life and career exemplify the values of intellectual rigour, dedication to service, and a commitment to fostering international understanding. His work has had a profound impact on the field of economics and economic policy at large. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Lawrence J. Lau for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.

CITATION FOR
Professor Justin Yifu Lin
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Professor Justin Yifu Lin for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Professor Justin Yifu Lin is an internationally renowned economist and a leading academic authority on China's economic issues. With profound knowledge, exceptional foresight, and a deep sense of national commitment, he rose from humble beginnings on an island in his homeland, via Mainland China, to the global stage, dedicating himself to the revitalisation of developing countries. For many years, he has served as a key advisor behind China's economic policymaking, playing a pivotal role in the country's economic rise and leading a truly legendary life.

Born in Taiwan, China, Professor Lin grew up in a modest household. From a young age, he experienced the hardships of life, which instilled in him an extraordinary focus and determination to excel academically. In 1971, he was admitted to the College of Agriculture at National Taiwan University, where he was elected President of the Freshman Student Council. His entry coincided with the United States' decision to 'return' the Diaoyu islands – originally part of Taiwan and placed under US trusteeship after World War II – along with the Okinawa Islands, to Japan, which sparked the Diaoyu Islands defence movement in Taiwan. In October of that year, the People's Republic of China regained its seat at the United Nations. Amidst an uncertain and precarious future for Taiwan, Professor Lin, as a responsible young man, decided to leave his studies and enlist at the Army Academy.

During his four years at the academy, Professor Lin had ample time to reflect on the future of the Chinese nation. He gradually realised that the United States, by disregarding the historical fact that the Diaoyu Islands belonged to China and assigning them to Japan, was essentially similar to the post-First World War Paris Peace Conference. There, the Allied powers chose not to return Germany's leased territory in Qingdao to China, one of the victorious nations, but instead hand it over to another imperial power – Japan. This realisation awakened Professor Lin to the understanding that without national revival, the fate of the nation was at the mercy of others and thus could not be changed. While Taiwan, then isolated, was thriving economically and emerging as one of the proud 'Four Asian Tigers', it had no voice or influence in matters concerning its own territorial integrity and national dignity. In an international arena, where political interests and military strength dictate outcomes, the restoration of the Chinese nation could only depend on the comprehensive development and strengthening of the Mainland, home to over a billion people. This conviction led him, in 1979, to make a life-changing decision: to cross the Taiwan Strait and pursue a master's degree in economics at Peking University.

In 1980, Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences and Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, Theodore W. Schultz, visited Peking University to give a lecture.

Professor Lin, serving as an interpreter, impressed Schultz with his fluent translation and was subsequently recommended to pursue a PhD in agricultural economics at the University of Chicago. Immersed in academic research, he was among the first in his cohort to complete his doctorate. His dissertation, *Rural Reforms in China: Theoretical and Empirical Analysis*, was hailed by Professor Schultz as a “classic” in the field of New Institutional Economics. Despite being fully aware of the gap between academic environments abroad and at home, Professor Lin returned to China with his family in 1987 with a sincere desire to serve his country. Bringing back with him thirty boxes of curated English-language academic materials, he also helped lay a solid foundation for economic research in China.

Upon his return, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Development Research Institute at the State Council’s Rural Development Research Centre. He actively participated in policy research on rural reform, travelling extensively across provinces to conduct fieldwork, research and data analysis. His influential papers, including *Collectivisation and China’s Agricultural Crisis (1959–1961)* and *Rural Reform and Agricultural Growth in China* garnered international attention and established his reputation in agricultural economics and development economics.

In 1994, Professor Lin co-founded the China Centre for Economic Research at Peking University along with several returning scholars. From its humble beginnings with two and a half offices to the subsequent elegant courtyard of the Langrun Garden, the centre has remained a hub of vibrant intellectual exchange, a cradle for ideological development and reform, and the embodiment of the intellectual community's vision and ambition for the country's future development. The team participated in the formulation of China’s economic reform policies, including telecommunications reform, accession to the World Trade Organisation, financial reform, rural development, and food security. Professor Lin became a trusted advisor to national leaders on economic decision-making.

As global interest in China’s development grew, so did Professor Lin’s international reputation. In 2008, he was appointed Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics at the World Bank, becoming the first person from a developing country to hold this key position. During his tenure, through visits and research across 60 countries, he concluded that mainstream Western development theories, such as structuralism and neoliberalism, offered limited practical benefits to developing nations. He proposed the theory of New Structural Economics, advocating that developing countries should leverage their own market advantages alongside supportive government policies to unlock economic potential and narrow the gap with developed nations. His theory was accorded great significance and has been regarded a major contribution to development economics, following structuralism and neoliberalism.

After completing his term at the World Bank in 2012, Professor Lin returned to Peking University to continue teaching and research. He currently serves as a Standing Committee Member of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the CPPCC National Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Expert Committee for the 13th, 14th, and 15th Five-Year

Plans. At Peking University, he is a Boya Chair Professor, Dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics, Honorary Dean of the National School of Development, as well as Honorary Dean of the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, remaining committed to driving theoretical innovation and policy practice.

Professor Lin also has strong ties with Hong Kong. From 1995 to 2005, he was a professor in the Department of Economics at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, promoting academic exchange and nurturing talent. In recent years, he has been invited to speak in Hong Kong on multiple occasions, offering insightful perspectives on the city's economic development and transformation. He has encouraged Hong Kong to develop high-end manufacturing, seize opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and leverage its strengths to forge a new path forward.

Professor Lin has a prolific academic output, having published over 300 papers in domestic and international journals and authored more than 20 books, including *The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform*, *The Quest for Prosperity: How Developing Economies Can Take Off*, *New Structural Economics: A Framework for Rethinking Development and Policy*, and *Ontology and Emptiness: A Dialogue on Economic Methodology*. Among them, *Institutions, Technology and China's Agricultural Development* won the Sun Yefang Economic Science Award, while *Re-examining Institutions, Technology, and China's Agricultural Development* won First Prize in the Third Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Achievement Awards for Chinese Universities from the Ministry of Education of China.

In recognition of his outstanding academic achievements, Professor Lin has been elected a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences and a Foreign Member of the British Academy. He has also received honorary doctorates from over ten universities worldwide, including institutions in Hong Kong.

Mr Chairman, Professor Lin has been devoted to the modernisation of our nation for over half a century, tirelessly advancing innovative theories and making widely-acclaimed contributions to both academic research and economic policymaking. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Justin Yifu Lin for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.

CITATION FOR
Professor Kishore Mahbubani
Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is a great privilege to present Professor Kishore Mahbubani for the award of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

Professor Mahbubani is a leading voice internationally in the field of public policy and has pursued careers in both diplomacy and academia. His achievements map the astonishing trajectory of his native Singapore.

A descendant of Hindu Sindhi people who left what became Pakistan during the 1947 Partition, Professor Mahbubani grew up in a multi-ethnic, yet economically disadvantaged area in the 1950s, where his family struggled to make ends meet. He was initially destined for a career as a textiles salesman after high school; however, Singapore was evolving into an entrepreneurial hub, moving towards modernisation and greater prosperity. In 1967, in what Professor Mahbubani has described as one of the greatest miracles of his life, he was granted a President's Scholarship to attend the University of Singapore, where he graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Philosophy. Inspired by Plutarch's belief that "Education isn't about filling a bucket; it's about lighting fires," Professor Mahbubani initially aspired to become a professor of philosophy. Yet, recognising the need to support his family, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1971, embarking on a notable diplomatic career, which he enjoyed for over three decades.

During his distinguished tenure, Professor Mahbubani was posted in various locations. He served in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1973-74, where shrapnel penetrated the walls of his residence as the city was shelled almost every day. He also represented Singapore in Canberra, Kuala Lumpur and Washington DC and was Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1998. His role as Singapore's Ambassador to the United Nations from 1984 to 1989 and again from 1998 to 2004 included serving as the country's permanent representative when Singapore became a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2001. He sat as President of the Security Council in January 2001 and May 2002, and has participated in the annual meetings of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos twenty times, contributing to several WEF committees.

Despite excelling in a 33-year diplomatic career, Professor Mahbubani never lost his passion for education. In 1976, he obtained a master's degree in philosophy from Dalhousie University in Canada, where he was also conferred an honorary doctorate in 1995. Between 1991 and 1992 he spent a year as a fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. In 2004, he finally joined academia full-time, and was appointed Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, a position he held until 2017.

There, he also served as a Professor in the Practice of Public Policy, from 2006 until 2019.

When lecturing, it became clear that many international students had enrolled at the school to learn the secret behind Singapore's success in governance. Professor Mahbubani would attribute this to three important principles: meritocracy, pragmatism, and honesty, which, he explained, he had personally applied in building up the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Meritocracy and honesty were applied to ensure the school selected the best possible people to serve in leadership positions in both the academic and administrative areas. Meanwhile, the school was pragmatic in being open to learning best practices from any source, anywhere in the world: another lesson learned from Singapore's achievements. This principle brought considerable success as, in less than a decade, the school was admitted into two of the most prestigious international affairs networks, the Global Public Policy Network and the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs.

In addition to higher education administration and teaching roles, Professor Mahbubani has authored ten published books, including *The New Asian Hemisphere*, *The ASEAN Miracle* (co-authored with Jeffery Sng), *The Asian 21st Century*, and latterly his memoir *Living the Asian Century* in 2024. He is the first Singaporean to publish articles in globally renowned journals and newspapers such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *New York Times* and the *Financial Times*, and co-authored articles with global thought leaders including Kofi Annan and Larry Summers. Through his writing he has established a reputation as a highly knowledgeable, straightforward, prolific, and influential commentator on Southeast Asia.

Professor Mahbubani has received significant international recognition for his accomplishments, including being conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singapore Government in 1998 and the Foreign Policy Association Medal in June 2004. He was listed as one of the top 100 public intellectuals in the world by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines in September 2005 and included in the March 2009 *Financial Times* list of Top 50 individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism. In 2010 and 2011, he was selected as one of *Foreign Policy's* Top Global Thinkers, and in 2014, he was named one of the top 50 world thinkers by *Prospect*. In April 2019, he was elected as an honorary international member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which has honoured distinguished thinkers since 1780.

Mr Chairman, through passion, determination, dedication and talent, Professor Kishore Mahbubani has become one of the most respected experts and educators on public policy. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Kishore Mahbubani for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities.

CITATION FOR
Professor Michael E. Mann
Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is with immense pride and respect that I present Professor Michael E. Mann for the award of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

A true luminary in the field of climate science and a tireless advocate for evidence-based action on climate change, Professor Mann's contributions to our understanding of climate dynamics and its implications for society have been transformative. His ground-breaking research on climate change, unwavering commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and public awareness of this pressing issue, and resilience have made him an inspiration to scientists and citizens worldwide.

Professor Mann's journey began in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, where he was raised in a family that valued education and inquiry. His father, a mathematics professor at the University of Massachusetts, instilled in him a passion for the sciences. In his early teens, Professor Mann's interest was further ignited by Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, a series that deepened his appreciation for the natural world and the scientific method. He built a strong foundation in mathematics and science, earning undergraduate degrees in Applied Mathematics and Physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1989. He pursued further research in theoretical condensed matter physics and solid-state physics at Yale University, obtaining MSc and MPhil degrees in Physics in 1991. Two years into his PhD programme, however, Mann's focus shifted on learning of the research of Professor Barry Saltzman, who was using mathematics and physics to explore the Earth's climate system. This new direction intrigued him, presenting an opportunity to work on a significant global challenge. Following a productive summer of research with Saltzman, Mann transitioned to the Department of Geology and Geophysics, where he completed his PhD in 1998. He was awarded with the Phillip M. Orville Prize in 1997 for his outstanding dissertation on the earth sciences at Yale University.

Professor Mann's research interests span a wide array of topics involving climate variability and human-caused climate change, with a particular emphasis on reconstructing past climate patterns using paleoclimate data such as tree rings, corals, ice cores, and lake and ocean sediments. He has pioneered advanced statistical techniques to identify climate signals and synthesise patterns of past climate. His most well-known contribution is the development of the 'hockey stick graph', a reconstruction of Northern Hemisphere temperatures over the past millennium. Published in the late 1990s in collaboration with Raymond S. Bradley and Malcolm K. Hughes, this graph vividly illustrates the unprecedented nature of modern, human-induced global warming. It demonstrates that late 20th-century warming was anomalous compared to the relatively stable temperatures of preceding centuries. This research played a pivotal role in shaping the scientific consensus on climate change and informing policy discussions.

In addition to his research, Professor Mann's expertise has been sought by international scientific bodies. He was chosen as a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Third Assessment Report*, published in 2001, with his hockey stick graph featured in the report's summary. In 2007, the IPCC and former US Vice-President Al Gore were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in educating about and inspiring action on human-influenced climate change.

Professor Mann currently holds the position of Presidential Distinguished Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also serves as Vice Provost for Climate Science, Policy, and Action, and directs the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability, and the Media. His work at these institutions goes hand in hand with his ongoing public outreach in informing societal conversation about climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our times. He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications, numerous op-eds, and seven influential books, including *Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming*, *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*, *The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial Is Threatening Our Planet*, *Destroying Our Politics*, and *Driving Us Crazy*, *The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet*, and *Our Fragile Moment*.

In *The New Climate War*, Professor Mann articulates that climate change is an existential threat requiring us to rethink our relationship with the planet. It is not just about warming temperatures; it is about the survival of ecosystems and future generations. He emphasises that the solutions lie in our ability to innovate, educate and advocate for sustainable practices. He also urges recognition of the importance of collective action, stating that individual actions matter, but collective efforts amplify our impact.

Professor Mann's contributions have not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous accolades throughout his career, including recognition as one of the fifty leading visionaries in science and technology by *Scientific American* in 2002, the Hans Oeschger Medal from the European Geosciences Union in 2012, and the National Conservation Achievement Award from the National Wildlife Federation in 2013. Other honours include the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 2019 and election to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2020. Most recently, he was named Humanist of the Year by the American Humanist Association in 2023 and elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 2024.

Amidst his remarkable achievements, Professor Mann has faced significant challenges, including attacks from climate change deniers. Harassment and threats have not deterred him from his mission; instead, they have fortified his resolve. Throughout these adversities, Professor Mann has remained steadfast in his commitment to scientific integrity and public service, embodying a resilience that inspires many in the scientific community and beyond.

Mr Chairman, Professor Michael E. Mann's extraordinary contributions to climate science have profoundly impacted our society at large and galvanised a generation to take action for a sustainable future. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you Professor Michael E. Mann for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of

Humanities.

CITATION FOR

Venerable Kuan Yun, BBS, MH Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present the Venerable Kuan Yun for the award of Honorary Fellow.

Buddhism often teaches: “Compassion brings joy; mercy alleviates suffering.” The Venerable Kuan Yun, President of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association and Abbot of Western Monastery, has been a tireless advocate for the propagation of Buddhist teachings. He has embodied the Buddha’s spirit of compassion and service to the world, whilst dedicating himself to the betterment of society and the welfare of all. His enthusiastic involvement in education and social welfare has brought immeasurable blessings to the people of Hong Kong.

Born in the Liaoning Province in northeastern China, the Venerable Kuan Yun was deeply influenced by his devout Buddhist mother, from whom he learned the compassionate and merciful nature of the Buddha. In 1983, he moved south to Hong Kong, where he completed his undergraduate and master’s degrees at Hong Kong Buddhist College (now Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education), and is currently pursuing doctoral studies. He was ordained as a monk and became the 46th lineage holder of the Tiantai School’s teachings and practices in 1986. Venerable Kuan Yun studied Buddhism under his revered teacher, and assisted in the development of the Western Monastery in Hong Kong, where he was appointed as the Supervisor in 1993, before succeeding the Venerable Wing Sing as Abbot of Western Monastery in 2007.

The Venerable Wing Sing once said, “Never forget that many people in this world are suffering.” These words profoundly impacted the Venerable Kuan Yun and became his guiding principle. The monastery under his care has always provided hot meals to ensure no one goes hungry, while beds and bedding are readily available for wandering monks in need of shelter. He firmly believes that monks who cultivate good intentions, speak kindly and perform good deeds can positively impact lives and transform society.

In order to revitalise Buddhism, the Venerable Kuan Yun has actively participated in the restoration of temples across China and been committed to nurturing monastic talent. In 2006, he and the Venerable Wing Sing accepted an invitation from the Religious Affairs Bureau of Chaoyang City, Liaoning Province and the Chaoyang Museum to manage the Youshun Temple. They initiated restoration works and converted the Dharma Building to the west of the temple into a Buddhist college. In collaboration with Liaoning University, they established the Yongxing Buddhist Research Centre and Study Institute, which became the first Buddhist institution in China recognised by the Ministry of Education. To date, it has trained over 200 undergraduate monastic students and serves as a cradle for Buddhist talent.

Mindful of the importance of knowledge in societal development and ideological dissemination, the Venerable Kuan Yun has funded the construction of ‘Hope Schools’ in Guizhou Province, Inner Mongolia, and the city of Shenyang, among others, over the years. He also founded the Kuan Yun Senior Secondary School in his hometown of Kazuo County, offering quality education and transforming the lives of countless students. In Hong Kong, he has served as the Supervisor of Tsz Ching Estate Bodhi Siksa Kindergarten and Buddhist Wong Wan Tin College. He also founded the Guanyin Lecture Hall, Puxian Hall, and the Bodhi Siksa Cultural and Educational Centre, making significant contributions to the popularisation of Buddhist teachings.

In 2023, the Venerable Kuan Yun initiated the establishment of the Hong Kong Tung Lum Pure Land Institute, to provide a dedicated space for local devotees to study Pure Land Buddhism and to carry forward the teachings and spirit of Master Yin Guang. To further promote Buddhist research, he spearheaded the establishment of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, launching high-quality academic work and inspiring understanding of Buddhism through education.

Whilst promoting Buddhist teachings and dedicating himself to education, the Venerable Kuan Yun remains deeply concerned for the underprivileged, especially the elderly and related care services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he organised multiple Epidemic Relief blessing ceremonies, mobilising over a thousand monks. Saddened by the loneliness of elderly individuals who eventually passed away from the virus, he launched the Solitude Care Project, arranging regular visits by monks and volunteers to offer comfort and support to those living alone. He also initiated the Bodhi Online hotline to provide pandemic-related information and emotional and spiritual support to people, especially seniors, struggling with depression, anxiety or suicidal thoughts. Post-pandemic, the hotline has focused on suicide prevention and grief counselling, continuing its service to the community. Through his selfless compassion, the Venerable Kuan Yun has demonstrated his profound commitment to Hong Kong society and revealed the healing power of Buddhism.

The Venerable Kuan Yun recognises the need for Buddhist teachings and practices to evolve with the times. He often says that monks cannot remain detached from worldly affairs. Embracing technology, he has effectively disseminated Buddhist teachings online, was among the first generation of bloggers, and has been active on such platforms as Sina and Tencent. Since 2015, he has produced online videos introducing fundamental Buddhist teachings and classical doctrines. In 2021, he participated in the filming of the *Dialogue with Masters* and *Buddhism and Life Wisdom* series, which were well received by the public. Last year, he was invited by The Chinese University of Hong Kong to engage in dialogues from a Buddhist perspective on issues such as euthanasia, IVF, and the ethics of killing, offering profound insights.

The Venerable Kuan Yun holds numerous public roles. He has served as a member of the 12th to 14th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conferences, member of the China Committee on Religion and Peace, and advisor to the Chinese Foundation for Prevention of STDs and AIDS. He is also Abbot of Youshun

Temple in Chaoyang, Liaoning Province; Abbot of Bodhi Siksa Monastery in Australia, President of the Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society; Abbot of Tung Lum Nieh Fah Tong, the Guanyin Lecture Hall and Puxian Hall; Director of Tung Lum Buddhist Aged Home; Superintendent of the Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Society, Ltd. Care & Attention Home for the Aged; and President of the Hong Kong Bodhi Siksa Publishing House.

Over the years, the Venerable Kuan Yun has authored several influential works, including *The Collection of Causes and Conditions in the World*, *The Ethical Teachings of the Good Life Sutra and the Path to a Happy Family*, and *The Buddha's Teachings on the Stars and the Art of Living*. His writings are concise yet profound, significantly contributing to the modern propagation of Buddhist thought.

The Venerable Kuan Yun's outstanding achievements in education and humanitarian care have earned him widespread acclaim. In 2007, he was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Chinese Charity Award and named a Chinese Charity Figure. In 2023, he received the Compassion Award from the Hong Kong & Macau Taiwanese Charity Fund. In July 2025, he was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR, in recognition of his dedication to promoting Buddhism and his involvement in charitable initiatives and educational services.

Mr Chairman, the Venerable Kuan Yun has long devoted himself to advancing education, caring for society, and promoting Buddhist teachings. With a heart full of compassion, he has served the people of Hong Kong. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present to you the Venerable Kuan Yun for the award of Honorary Fellow.