

Honorary Awards Conferment Ceremony 2026
Address by the President Professor John Lee Chi-Kin, JP
22 October 2026

Council Chairman, Council members, esteemed Honorary Doctorates and Fellows, distinguished guests, colleagues, students and friends,

It is my utmost privilege to welcome you to today's conferment ceremony, held in this meaningful year as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the University's retitling – a significant milestone in our history. As a young and vibrant university with a proud heritage in teacher education, EdUHK remains firmly committed to nurturing future-ready talent, cultivating proper and positive values, and contributing to the development locally, nationally and globally.

Today, we gather to celebrate seven exceptional individuals whose contributions to academia, public policy, environmental sustainability and industry embody the values we hold dear as a university community.

Firstly, we are deeply honoured to confer honorary doctorates upon three distinguished visionaries.

Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi is a world-renowned sociologist and educator whose scholarship spans Chinese and Western intellectual traditions. His rich and insightful body of work on modernisation and Chinese society has profoundly shaped Chinese sociology, and it continues to inspire scholars to reflect on the essence of a university. Teaching in Hong Kong since the 1970s, he has served successively as Chairman of the Department of Sociology, Head of New Asia College, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Over half a century, he has nurtured generations of students and championed an educational vision that embraces general education, the collegiate system and humanistic values, making seminal contributions to the institutional and cultural development of higher education in Hong Kong. His moral stature and intellectual legacy command our deepest respect.

We also celebrate Dr the Honourable Starry Lee Wai-king, President of the Legislative Council, whose quarter-century of public service has been marked by unfailing dedication to enhancing people's well-being and strengthening district governance, with a particular focus on housing, education and youth development. A long-standing supporter of local education, she has encouraged young people to deepen their understanding of the nation, broaden their horizons, take part in public affairs and embrace social responsibility. Devoted to the nation and Hong Kong, she has made significant contributions to the advancement of patriotic education and the long-term development of our city, earning wide respect and recognition across the community.

Joining them in receiving this honour is Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer, Thomas D. Dee II Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford University, whose pioneering work on power in organisations and resource dependence theory has redefined modern management and advanced the cause of humane and equitable workplaces. Teaching for over half a century, he has lectured at prestigious institutions including Harvard Business School and London Business School. His publications are widely adopted by business schools worldwide, cultivating scholars and leaders across the globe and exerting a far-reaching influence on contemporary management education. We further confer Honorary Fellowships upon four outstanding leaders who have dedicated themselves to societal advancement and youth empowerment.

The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung has championed youth development and cross-boundary exchanges, opening vital internship and learning opportunities for tens of thousands of young people.

Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei has devoted over four decades to pioneering environmental conservation, advocating decarbonisation, and inspiring green innovation among the younger generation.

The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-Ka, a prominent solicitor and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, has long served the Hong Kong community, making significant contributions across the legal, financial, and industrial sectors.

Finally, Mr Irons Sze, a prominent industrialist and member of the Standing Committee of the CPPCC National Committee, who has tirelessly supported the development of local higher education and actively spearheaded regional economic integration.

Each of our honourees exemplifies the transformative power of visionary leadership, selfless service and unwavering dedication. Their lifetime achievements serve as guiding beacons to our students and graduates, and stand as living testaments to the core values we strive to cultivate across our institution: to enlighten minds, nurture growth and transform lives.

On behalf of the University, I extend my warmest congratulations and deepest gratitude to our new Honorary Doctors and Honorary Fellows, whose example will continue to inspire generations to come.

Thank you.