

CITATION FOR
Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, SBS, JP
Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my profound honour to present to you Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

Professor King is a distinguished and world-renowned scholar, sociologist, educator, and thinker, whose decades-long academic career has significantly shaped the intellectual and cultural foundations of Chinese society and modern higher education.

Born in 1935 in Haiyan, Zhejiang Province, China, Professor King's academic journey exemplifies intellectual rigor and global vision. He began his studies in Taiwan, earning a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in legal and political studies. In 1970, he completed his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh in the United States, a formative experience that set the foundation for his lifelong exploration of the interplay between tradition, modernity, and socio-political development in Chinese societies.

Professor King's scholarly contributions have significantly influenced sociology and the humanities, particularly in analysing China's multifaceted path to modernisation. His seminal works, including *From Tradition to Modernity* (1966) and its expanded edition (2024), as well as *The Modern Turn of China* (2004), provide landmark insights into the sweeping transformations of Chinese social structures over two centuries, employing the theoretical lens of Max Weber. Professor King's critiques of Western-centric models of modernisation and his emphasis on a pluralistic global culture further enhance his stature as a pioneering figure in the study of Chinese modernisation.

Esteemed worldwide for his intellectual contributions, Professor King is equally revered for his fearless engagement with socio-political issues. Landmark articles like *The Administrative Absorption of Politics in Hong Kong with Special Emphasis on the Grass-Root Level* (1975) and *One Country, Two Systems: An Idea on Trial* (1995) are exemplary of his incisive analysis of pivotal topics. These works address Hong Kong's journey from a British-ruled city to an international metropolis, highlighting themes of governance, capitalism, and cultural identity against the backdrop of globalisation.

Professor King's legacy is inextricably tied to The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where he served with distinction for over 34 years. Joining CUHK in 1970 as a lecturer in sociology, he advanced steadily through positions such as Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Head of New Asia College, before being appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and eventually, the University's fifth Vice-Chancellor in 2002. His tenure spanned unprecedented challenges, including the SARS epidemic and significant government budget

cuts, during which he strengthened governance systems, ensured institutional stability, and spearheaded the establishment of the School of Law. His initiatives, such as the eminent Ch'ien Mu Lecture in History and Culture, revitalised the humanistic spirit in higher education and further consolidated CUHK's standing among the world's top academic institutions.

A visionary leader in higher education, Professor King authored the acclaimed *The Idea of a University* (1983), a work widely recognised in Chinese academic circles. This seminal book reflects his deep commitment to integrating knowledge with moral education. Drawing inspiration from both Western monastic education and the traditional Chinese academy, Professor King championed bilingual education, transdisciplinary learning, and global intellectual exchange. In his follow-up work, *Rethinking University* (2017), he elaborated further on his philosophy by emphasising that universities should pursue not only “truth” but also “virtue” and “beauty”, underscoring the holistic mission of education systems in cultivating humanity.

Beyond academia, Professor King has been an exemplary public servant, offering his expertise to Hong Kong's most pivotal governmental bodies, including the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Law Reform Commission, the Central Policy Unit, the University Grants Committee, and the Research Grants Council. Internationally, his influence is reflected in his editorial roles for global academic journals and his election as Academician of Academia Sinica in Taiwan. For his dedicated public service, he was honoured with the Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government in 1998 and received honorary doctorate degrees from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and CUHK.

Professor King's elegance as a writer mirrors his analytical brilliance. Works such as *Cambridge Musings*, *Heidelberg Musings*, and *Ever in My Heart* reveal his ability to combine scholarship with poetic sensibility, reflecting deeply on the relationship between intellectual inquiry and human values. His lifelong devotion to Chinese calligraphy enriches his legacy further, as he masterfully bridges tradition and modernity while inspiring new generations to preserve and renew the literati traditions of Chinese culture.

Now in his ninth decade, Professor King continues to embody the ethos of a lifelong educator and public intellectual. Even in retirement, he remains remarkably active - crafting essays, continuing his practice of calligraphy, and mentoring younger generations. A devoted advocate for cultural preservation, he seeks to ensure that the younger generation not only inherits China's artistic heritage but also appreciates its relevance to the ongoing evolution of Chinese identity in a globalised world.

Mr Chairman, Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi's extraordinary career exemplifies intellectual leadership, cultural bridge-building, and educational innovation. His scholarship has not only anticipated the challenges of modernity but has illuminated new paths toward hope, understanding, and coexistence for humanity. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly

present to you Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education.

CITATION FOR

Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Born in 1974 into a grassroots family in Hong Kong and raised in a public housing estate, Dr Lee's life story is deeply intertwined with the city she serves. From an early age, she experienced first-hand the aspirations and daily struggles of ordinary families, shaping her enduring belief that "serving the public starts with serving the community". This conviction has guided her throughout more than a quarter-century of public service.

During primary and secondary school, Dr Lee was active in student and community activities, developing a strong sense of duty and discipline. She then studied accounting and business administration at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), honing her analytical skills and logical thinking, and later obtained an MBA from the University of Manchester. A Hong Kong certified public accountant and a member of the Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute, she has worked at leading international accounting firms. This solid professional foundation equipped her with financial and corporate governance expertise and a deep appreciation for the needs and pressures of the middle class and the business community.

In 1999, at just 25, Dr Lee left her professional career to run as an independent candidate in the District Council election. She was successfully elected, becoming one of the youngest directly elected district councillors at the time. Over successive terms, she focused on livelihood issues such as improving public housing facilities and supporting grassroots families, building deep trust with local residents and accumulating rich experience in district governance.

In 2004, Dr Lee joined the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong (DAB), marking a new stage in her public service. In 2008, she was elected to the Legislative Council (LegCo), formally elevating her advocacy from the district level to HKSAR's legislature.

As a lawmaker, Dr Lee has always seen herself as a bridge between the community, the legislature and the executive authorities. Over many years in LegCo, she has actively addressed issues related to housing, welfare, education and youth development, with a particular emphasis on easing the pressures faced by both grassroots and middle-class families.

Beyond the legislature, Dr Lee also contributed at the highest levels of the HKSAR's governance. From 2012 to 2016, she served as a Non-official

Member of the Executive Council, becoming at that time one of the few politicians to serve concurrently on the District Council, Legislative Council and Executive Council. This unique three-tier experience strengthened her ability to coordinate across institutions, align policies with community needs, and support more effective implementation.

In 2015, Dr Lee was elected as DAB's fourth Chairwoman, becoming the party's first female leader and one of its youngest chairpersons. Under her leadership, the party placed greater emphasis on professionalisation and youth engagement, encouraging more professionals and young people to take part in public affairs, and strengthening its role in connecting grassroots communities with national development opportunities.

Dr Lee firmly believes that Hong Kong's future is closely linked to the development of the country. As a Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress, and later the HKSAR's sole member of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress, she has taken on important national responsibilities, explaining Hong Kong's situation to central authorities while also helping the city better seize opportunities arising from national strategies and the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area. Committed to nurturing the younger generation and shaping future leaders, Dr Lee has played a prominent role in promoting constitutional and Basic Law education, as well as patriotic education, in Hong Kong. As Chair of a working group on patriotic education under the Steering Committee on the Promotion of the Constitution and the Basic Law, she actively supported the integration of patriotic education into school curricula and community activities, encouraging young people to gain a deeper understanding of the nation's history and development so that they can better contribute to its future.

As Honorary Professor at The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), Dr Lee has maintained close ties with the University. Through guest lectures and dialogues with students, including on themes such as the nation's legislative system, the work of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, and Hong Kong's unique role under "one country, two systems", she helps students develop a stronger sense of national identity, civic responsibility and global perspective. She also teaches public administration and governance in the University's Executive Master of Public Administration and Leadership program, cultivating leaders to advance Hong Kong's and the nation's continued growth and development.

In January 2026, Dr Lee was elected as the eighth President of LegCo, marking another milestone in her distinguished career in public service. Under her leadership, she is committed to presiding over meetings fairly and impartially under the Rules of Procedure, ensuring that all Members can fulfil their duties and that the legislature and the executive work together to promote good governance. She also pays particular attention to how LegCo can complement the nation's 14th and forthcoming 15th Five-Year Plans, so that Hong Kong can better leverage its strengths in areas such as finance, innovation and technology, and professional services.

Despite her demanding schedule, Dr Lee has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, earning a Doctor of Laws from Tsinghua University in 2024. Her remarkable contributions to public service have earned widespread recognition. In 2022, she was awarded the prestigious Gold Bauhinia Star in recognition of her distinguished service, exemplary leadership in legislative governance, and impactful roles as both a LegCo member and a district councillor. That same year, she was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by HKUST for her significant contributions to local politics and her transformative impact on the lives of the people of Hong Kong.

Mr Chairman, Dr Lee's relentless commitment to serving the people of Hong Kong and advancing the city's development is profound. Her dedication to fostering integration with national development, particularly for the younger generation, has left an indelible mark on the city. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I proudly present Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.

CITATION FOR
Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

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

As the Thomas D. Dee II Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, Professor Pfeffer has redefined how we understand power, influence and organisations. His fearless academic pursuits and advocacy for evidence-based management have illuminated the intricate connections between leadership, workplace environments, and human well-being, shaping the foundation of modern organisational theory and creating lasting impact far beyond academia.

Professor Pfeffer's journey into academia is as inspiring as his scholarship. Initially aspiring to a corporate career, he completed a bachelor's degree in Administration and Management Science followed by a master's in Industrial Administration at Carnegie-Mellon University. During his master's programme, however, an ordinary talk on corporate careers turned into a profound moment of clarity. Recognising that his character might not align with the rigid hierarchies of corporate life, he pursued a planning role at a military think tank after graduation. Although the position offered intellectual stimulation, it ultimately lacked the depth he craved. That search for intellectual meaning led him to Stanford, where he embarked on a PhD in Organisational Behaviour, setting the stage for a career that would leave an indelible mark on the world of management scholarship.

One of the defining moments in Professor Pfeffer's career came early, as he developed the ground-breaking 'resource dependence theory' during his doctoral studies. This theory, which explores how organisations are influenced by external agents or actors that control critical resources, challenged conventional thinking about the importance of leadership and brought new perspectives to organisational behaviour. But his boldness was met with scepticism. When applying for academic roles, his unconventional ideas were dismissed by leading institutions. One professor candidly offered him a stark choice: conform to conventional research trends or pursue the ideas he believed were truly important. Professor Pfeffer remained resolute in his vision, choosing to chart his own course to theoretical discovery.

This brave decision paid off. On joining the University of Illinois as an Assistant Professor, he forged a partnership with Professor Gerald R. Salancik, a fellow trailblazer in organisational thought. Together, they expanded upon Professor Pfeffer's doctoral work, co-authoring *The External Control of Organizations: A Resource Dependence Perspective*. This seminal book, which remains a cornerstone of organisational theory and strategic management, established

Professor Pfeffer as a thought leader in translating complex theoretical ideas into meaningful frameworks for understanding organisational dynamics.

After moving to the University of California at Berkeley in 1973, where he subsequently received tenure, in 1979, Professor Pfeffer became one of the youngest full professors at Stanford University, where he has remained a force for innovation and intellectual leadership for more than four decades. His scholarship spans an extraordinary range of themes, including organisational power and politics, human resource management, workplace well-being and employee health, evidence-based management, and turning knowledge into action. His influential books, including *The Knowing-Doing Gap*, *Competitive Advantage Through People*, *Dying for a Paycheck* and *7 Rules of Power*, have reframed organisational and managerial thinking. His works challenge orthodox views, revealing that factors like visibility, influence and networks often eclipse raw performance in shaping success.

This remarkable body of work underscores the breadth of Professor Pfeffer's scholarship and its profound global influence. He is the author or co-author of 16 books and more than 160 articles and book chapters, and his research has been cited nearly 200,000 times, making his contributions some of the most enduring and impactful in the field of organisational behaviour. However, his influence extends far beyond academic publications. Professor Pfeffer's ideas resonate across public and professional spheres through his writing for globally recognised platforms and his widely acclaimed podcast, *Pfeffer on Power*, which reaches audiences far beyond the academic world.

Beyond his enduring contributions at Stanford, Professor Pfeffer's influence spans the globe. He has held visiting professor roles at premier institutions, including Harvard Business School, London Business School, Singapore Management University, Copenhagen Business School and IESE Business School in Barcelona, where he taught for 14 years. His commitment to advancing knowledge extends across borders, as he continuously engages with new perspectives and audiences. Despite his numerous achievements, he remains deeply driven by a sense of justice and a relentless curiosity about why the world creates, and perpetuates, inequities. This drive has fuelled an extraordinary career of bold inquiry and fearless intellectual exploration.

Over the years, Professor Pfeffer's ground-breaking work has earned him recognition and accolades from around the world. Among his honours are the Richard D. Irwin Scholarly Contributions to Management Award from the Academy of Management and an honorary doctorate from Tilburg University. He has also been named a Hank McKinnell-Pfizer Inc. Faculty Fellow, a BP Faculty Fellow in Global Management, and a member of the 'Thinkers 50 Hall of Fame'. Additionally, he has been recognised as one of the Most Influential HR Thinkers by *HR Magazine*, a testament to his continued relevance to both scholarly and professional communities.

Mr Chairman, Professor Pfeffer's scholarship amounts to far more than a collection of theoretical insights. It is a call for fairer, healthier, and more humane workplaces. His ability to combine fearless thought leadership with a profound

sense of justice has transformed the study of organisations and continues to inspire leaders and scholars around the globe.

On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I take the greatest pride in presenting to you Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer for the award of an Honorary Doctorate of Social Sciences.

**Citation for
The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung for the award of Honorary Fellow.

The following simple yet profound maxim has long been embedded in Hon Lau's heart, guiding his principles throughout his life: "Be diligent and kind, give back to society, and bring benefit to others." Over the years, he has consistently upheld the ethos of giving back to the community, actively devoting himself to youth development, educational advancement, and public service. Steadfast in his belief that learning unleashes potential and broadens perspectives, he remains ever mindful of the guidance and mentorship he has received along his own path. Taking on the mantle of passing on this legacy, he exemplifies a deep commitment and devotion to nurturing talent.

Hon Lau pursued his studies in Information Technology in the United Kingdom before returning to Hong Kong to commence his career. Demonstrating an unflagging commitment to self-improvement, he earned an MBA alongside his professional responsibilities. Over the past three decades, his business footprint has expanded across property investment, commercial development and hotel operations. Through his keen market insight and pragmatic approach, he has accumulated vast expertise in corporate governance and business management.

With resolute commitment and a heart for youth, Hon Lau was deeply inspired by the precepts and examples of his mentors. Recognising that his achievements were made possible by societal support and the opportunities of his era, he remains humble. He considers youth cultivation his personal mission, actively embodying the philosophy of "influencing lives through life." Consequently, he is dedicated to helping the younger generation broaden their horizons, formulate their ambitions, and grow into future pillars of support for both the nation and Hong Kong.

Hon Lau has long been deeply engaged in youth affairs, holding numerous key posts and making significant contributions. He served as the 28th Chairman of the Hong Kong United Youth Association and currently sits on the Council of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups and the Board of the Dragon Foundation. He is the founder of Dynamic Youth of Huizhou and Dynamic Youth of Greater Bay Area. Caring deeply for young people's physical and mental well-being, as well as their holistic development, he has led Hong Kong youths on exchange and study tours across the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and various cities in the Chinese Mainland. In guiding young people, he enables them to actively integrate into and serve the overall development of the nation, exploring infinite possibilities.

Over the years, the exchange, internship and entrepreneurship initiatives spearheaded by Hon Lau have benefitted over 30,000 young people. Even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he never wavered, actively driving a digital transformation that secured online internship places for students at national-level institutions such as the Palace Museum and the National Museum of China. Furthermore, he established youth leadership training courses, empowering students to broaden their horizons and grow despite uncertain times. Following the launch of the HKSAR Government's "We Venture" GBA youth entrepreneurship initiative, Hon Lau rallied support across various sectors to assist the Hong Kong United Youth Association. This enabled the Association to become the sole organisation in Hong Kong approved to operate both the Funding Scheme for Youth Entrepreneurship in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Experiential Programmes at Innovation and Entrepreneurial Bases; thus opening up vast opportunities for aspiring young entrepreneurs.

Equally passionate about education, Hon Lau is a committed partner of The Education University of Hong Kong. He served as a guest speaker for the University's NPC and NCCPPCC Talk Series and personally led EdUHK students on an exchange tour to Tianjin, enabling future teachers to experience the dynamic rhythm of national development. He also brokered a sister-school network between the Tianjin education authorities and the New Territories School Heads Association, while assisting local primary and secondary schools, as well as educational groups, in organising mainland exchange activities. Furthermore, he has served on the Court of Hong Kong Baptist University for over a decade, promoting institutional development, nurturing young talents, and facilitating deep cross-boundary exchanges – fully demonstrating his own devotion to education.

In the sphere of public affairs, Hon Lau currently serves as a Hong Kong Deputy to the 14th National People's Congress and a Member of the 8th Legislative Council, having previously served as a Member of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He has held public roles on the Fight Crime Committee and the Committee on Community Support for Rehabilitated Offenders. Yet, more deeply rooted is the community service he has cultivated over many years. During his tenure as Chairman of the Tuen Mun District Fight Crime Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Tuen Mun District Youth Activities Committee, he spearheaded several landmark youth initiatives to remarkable effect. These include "Project X," launched in partnership with Lingnan University, Hong Kong Chu Hai College, and the Tuen Mun Police District. As an extended support measure under the Police Superintendent's Discretion Scheme, the project pairs university student volunteers with youth-at-risk, benefitting over 1,000 participants to date. He has also been involved in the widely acclaimed Strive for Success scheme, encouraging secondary school students to step outside their comfort zones and experience workplace environments.

In recognition of Hon Lau's years of dedicated public service and outstanding achievements, the HKSAR Government awarded him the Medal of Honour in 2014, appointed him a Justice of the Peace in 2016, and conferred upon him

the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2022, citing his strong commitment to serving the community and notable contributions to youth development.

Mr Chairman, The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung has long been deeply committed to youth work, advancing educational development and cross-boundary exchange. Guided by a spirit of passing the torch to nurture youth, and a dedication to serving society through both knowledge and action, he has made significant contributions to cultivating talent in Hong Kong and supporting its integration into the overall development of the country. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I am honoured to present to you The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung for the award of Honorary Fellow.

**CITATION FOR
Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei, BBS
Honorary Fellow**

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei for the award of Honorary Fellow.

As the saying goes, “Women hold up half the sky”. Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei is an eminent figure in Hong Kong’s environmental movement, who has dedicated her life to community service and made exceptional contributions to environmental conservation both locally and nationally. Having formerly served as Chairperson and Executive Director of Friends of the Earth (HK), a prominent non-governmental environmental organisation, she is currently its Honorary Patron.

Mrs Ng attended Sacred Heart Canossian College for her secondary education. Upon graduation, rather than following her peers onto well-trodden paths in civil service or business, she chose to pursue anthropology – a relatively niche discipline at the time – at the University of California, Berkeley. After graduating, she worked at the Natural History Museum in the UK, where she gained deep insights into species evolution and the extinction crisis facing life on Earth. Moreover, her stay in the UK coincided with the global oil crisis, giving her first-hand experience of the impact of energy shortages on livelihoods and compelling her to reflect deeply on humanity’s relationship with natural resources. Returning to Hong Kong in 1977 to start a family, she actively engaged in community service and volunteered to care for children with cancer. This experience catalysed her concern about the worrying health impacts of environmental pollution on the next generation, and marked a pivotal turning point that led her to commit her life to the environmental causes.

In 1988, Mrs Ng joined Friends of the Earth (HK) as a volunteer. Driven by dedication and passion for environmental philanthropy, she was subsequently appointed by the Hong Kong Government to serve on various public bodies, including the Country and Marine Parks Board, the Environmental Campaign Committee, the Advisory Council on the Environment and the Harbour-front Enhancement Committee. In 1993, she assumed the role of Executive Director of Friends of the Earth (HK), championing numerous environmental policies – from advocating local green issues to promoting national conservation initiatives, and from raising her voice in council chambers to petitioning on the street.

During the 1990s, environmental awareness in Hong Kong was still in its infancy. Demonstrating visionary foresight, Mrs Ng recognised that environmental education must start from an early age. She spearheaded the compilation of Hong Kong’s first-ever pre-school environmental education resource kit and launched a pre-school environmental initiative that introduced topics such as

air, water, noise and energy into kindergartens across the territory to widespread acclaim. The People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality subsequently adapted the kit for the Chinese Mainland, rolling it out to over a thousand kindergartens with remarkable success.

Over the years, Mrs Ng has led Friends of the Earth (HK) in advocating and practising environmental protection. She organised tree-planting activities to green the city, promoted energy conservation and emissions reduction to improve air quality, encouraged waste reduction and recycling across housing estates, advocated for urban sewage purification to clean up Victoria Harbour, and stressed the importance of renewable energy to combat climate change. Through her steadfast conviction, Mrs Ng successfully transformed environmental concepts – once viewed as going against the grain – into collective public action.

Concurrently, Mrs Ng focused on corporate environmental and social responsibility. While scrutinising government policies, she also advised on formulating sound environmental legislation. On numerous occasions, she lobbied the then Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee-hwa, articulating that the environment, economy and public health could prosper in unison. Her efforts moved the government to incorporate comprehensive sustainable development policies into the 1999 Policy Address and to establish the Council for Sustainable Development (now the Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development).

Looking beyond Hong Kong, Mrs Ng possessed the strategic foresight to promote environmental protection in the Chinese Mainland. From the 1990s onwards, carrying a large backpack filled with teaching kits, reference materials and props, she embarked on speaking tours across different cities including Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Changsha, Xiamen, Wuhan, Nanjing, Xi'an, Nanchang, Lhasa, Harbin, Tianjin, Shanghai and Beijing. Through these tours, she promoted environmental education, encouraged civic engagement, and inspired young people to pursue green entrepreneurship and career. She actively nurtured grassroots green groups, sowing the seeds of environmentalism. To support resource-constrained environmentalists in the Chinese Mainland, she raised funds to establish the Earth Award. Starting in 1997, Friends of the Earth (HK) presented the Earth Award for seven consecutive years, honouring outstanding conservationists and green heroes, validating their contributions, and injecting continuous momentum into the nation's grassroots green movement.

After stepping down as Executive Director of Friends of the Earth (HK) in 2006, Mrs Ng travelled to Xunwu County in Jiangxi Province to trace the source of the Dongjiang River. Deeply affected by the sight of soil erosion, abandoned farmland upstream and struggling local farmers, she initiated the 'Dongjiang Upstream Downstream Partnership Project' and the 'Sons of Dongjiang' programme. These initiatives organised youths from Hong Kong, Guangdong and Jiangxi to protect the ecological habitat of the Dongjiang basin, putting ecological compensation into practice. Following a decade of dedicated effort, the source region of the Dongjiang was upgraded to a National Wetland Park

in 2016. Through her conviction and pragmatic action, Mrs Ng pioneered cross-boundary upstream-downstream collaboration, raising water conservation awareness in Hong Kong while setting an exemplary benchmark for regional environmental governance.

Retired but not tired, Mrs Ng has in recent years become actively involved in the incubation and development of the Earth Academy. Through education, the academy aims to cultivate green innovative thinking and practical capabilities among young people, nurturing a new generation of leaders imbued with foresight and sustainable development values to contribute wisdom and strength towards a greener future.

Mrs Ng has injected vibrant vitality into the civil environmental movement, winning widespread societal acclaim. In 2000, she was named to the prestigious Global 500 Roll of Honour by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and appointed as–China Environmental Envoy by the National Environment Bureau of China. In 2003, the Government of the HKSAR awarded her the Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to environmental protection and community service.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei's professionalism and extraordinary vision have not only sustained the growth of local environmental charities, but have also established an enduring benchmark for civic environmental movements nationally and globally. Her selfless dedication to the green cause for over four decades, marked by tireless resolve, has left a profound mark on our society. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I humbly present Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei for the award of Honorary Fellow.

CITATION FOR
The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka, SBS, BBS, JP
Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present to you The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka for the award of Honorary Fellow.

The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka is an outstanding figure spanning the fields of law, industry, education, and public service. With firm conviction and unrelenting effort, rooted in the rule of law as his cornerstone and pragmatic action as his driving force, he has enthusiastically devoted himself to community affairs, contributing significantly to Hong Kong's industrial transformation, talent cultivation, and social well-being. In recognition of his remarkable contributions, he was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2019 and the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2025.

Born in Hong Kong, Hon Ng grew up under the Lion Rock. In his early years, he had a passion for the written word and a deep love for the humanities. While studying at Queen Elizabeth School, influenced by family expectations, he switched to the science stream with plans to apply to medical school. Later, he received admission offers from the Faculty of Law at The University of Hong Kong. Ultimately, he persuaded his family and resolutely embarked on a legal path, obtaining his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1991 and his Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) the following year. Since 1997, he has been a partner at Tung, Ng, Tse & Lam Solicitors.

Studying law did not limit Hon Ng to a mechanical familiarity with legal provisions. Instead, by delving deep into jurisprudence, analysing legal precedents, and dissecting the boundaries of rights and obligations, he gradually enhanced an ability to analyse disputes objectively and rationally. He believes that his legal training has enabled him to handle issues with a more objective and calmer attitude, an intellectual discipline that became the driving force for his later cross-sector development into industry, education and public service.

Hon Ng has held numerous important public posts and served as an independent non-executive director of listed companies. These include Chairman of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Passports Appeal Board, Chairman of the Hong Kong–Taiwan Business Co-operation Committee, Non-Executive Director of The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited, and Independent Non-Executive Director of MTR Corporation Limited.

Leveraging his professional expertise in law, Hon Ng also joined the industrial sector and served the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong for many years. He actively promotes new industrialisation and the restructuring of industrial supply chains, firmly believing that industrial transformation can create economic growth and drive overall societal development. In 2016, he successfully ran in the Hong Kong Legislative Council election for the Industrial

(Second) functional constituency – an experience he describes as ‘cross-sector development’. He firmly believes that behind both law and industry lies a shared sense of humanistic care, hoping that citizens may enjoy a sense of happiness and fulfilment.

As a member of Hong Kong's education sector, Hon Ng pays close attention to educational development. He serves as a member of the Court and the Council of The University of Hong Kong, believing that investing in education equates to investing in Hong Kong's future, and that whether the education system can adapt in a timely manner is crucial to driving social change. He points out that Hong Kong is at a critical juncture of economic transformation; to maintain its competitive edge, it must cultivate more forward-thinking professionals with an international perspective through the power of innovation. In response to the development of innovation and technology, he pays special attention to vocational and professional education and training, advocating for the introduction of interdisciplinary and practical applied subjects. He believes these academic intersections represent the areas where Hong Kong holds the greatest potential for breakthroughs.

He frequently emphasises that “industry, academia, and research are not three separate matters, but share the same objective.” He suggests integrating more marketing analysis into scientific research so that R&D outcomes are no longer detached from real-world demand. Regarding the nation's 15th Five-Year Plan supporting Hong Kong in building an international hub for high-calibre talent, he accurately grasps the key concept of ‘internationalisation’, advocating for diversified development: cultivating local talent as a priority while proactively attracting global talent to build an organically complementary ecosystem.

As a Deputy to the National People's Congress for the Hong Kong SAR, his vision for Hong Kong's education is never confined to a city of seven million people. He believes that Hong Kong's education must actively align with national development strategies, centring on the integrated development of ‘education, technology and talent’. He proposes an inspiring approach of “reverse thinking”: the greater Hong Kong's contribution to the nation, the better the city's own development will naturally be. Only through this can Hong Kong proactively create irreplaceable value within national development.

Hon Ng is also deeply concerned with youth development. He encourages the younger generation to perpetuate Lion Rock's spirit of effort and perseverance, while actively integrating into overall national development, laying deep roots locally while keeping a global perspective. He encourages young people to practise two principles: firstly, hold fast to beliefs and work tirelessly, as everyone can create unique value; secondly, transcend oneself and convert professional knowledge into energy that drives social change.

Mr Chairman, The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka combines legal rationality, industrial passion, educational vision, and humanistic care. From a science student in love with the humanities, to the rigorous training of the legal profession; from practical experience in industry, to policy debate in the Legislative Council; from a national vision in the National People's Congress,

to dedicated cultivation in educational reform. Everything stems from a consistent conviction: firmly upholding the cornerstone of the rule of law and work relentlessly to give back to society. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I respectfully present to you The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka for the award of Honorary Fellow.

CITATION FOR Mr Irons Sze, GBS, BBS, JP Honorary Fellow

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is a profound honour to present Mr Irons Sze for the award of Honorary Fellow.

Mr Sze is a titan of Hong Kong's business sector, a distinguished statesman, and a tireless advocate for the advancement of higher education. Throughout a career spanning more than four decades, Mr Sze has maintained an unyielding personal integrity, a pragmatic work ethic, and remained deeply committed to serving the community. He has made distinguished contributions to the steady social and economic development of Hong Kong, advanced the city's integration into the nation's overall development.

Mr Sze's family roots are deeply planted in the soil of Fujian Province. He was born into a prominent family distinguished in both scholarship and business. The son of renowned calligrapher and entrepreneur Dr Sze Chi-ching, developed a refined scholastic demeanour and a pragmatic, determined approach to life. His growth and personal journey mirror the historic trajectory of a generation of Hong Kong entrepreneurs.

In pursuit of academic excellence, Mr Sze enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in the United States. There, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1985. Through rigorous scientific training, he honed a truth-seeking, practical mindset and keen analytical capability. Upon his return to Hong Kong, he did not immediately step into a boardroom. He began his career at entry level in the family business, gaining solid practical experience and gradually building professional expertise in international trade, logistics operations, and human resource management.

With remarkable strategic vision and exceptional leadership, Mr Sze was instrumental in expanding the family group's textile raw material trade, diversifying the business into new areas, and navigating markets including Japan, South Korea, the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan. Deeply engaged in the cotton and synthetic fibre trade for many years, his profound insights into the industry not only drove corporate growth, but also vigorously promoted overall sector development, building a robust and diversified economic and trade network.

Mr Sze has made notable contributions to the local commercial and industrial landscape of Hong Kong. During his tenure as President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (CMA), he was a staunch defender of local brands and a catalyst for small- and medium-sized enterprises. He oversaw the Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo, ensuring that the local manufacturing sector remained vibrant and competitive in an increasingly digital world. As Permanent Honorary President of the CMA, he continues to offer counsel and contribute to the development of the commercial and industrial

sectors. He has also actively participated in public affairs, including being a Member of the Labour Advisory Board.

In the sphere of public and political service, Mr Sze's influence is both broad and deep. He served with distinction as a member of the 12th and 13th National Committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). During his 13th-term service, he was Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Committee on Population, Resources and Environment. In 2023, he was elected a member of the Standing Committee of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC. Mr Sze also served as President of HKCPPCC (Provincial) Member Association from 2018 to 2024. Over the years, he has acted as a vital bridge between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland, promoting youth interaction and exchange, and actively engaging in public affairs, safeguarding the city's prosperity and stability. As the Deputy Secretary-General of the Hong Kong Coalition and President of the Federation of Hong Kong Beijing Organisations, Mr Sze has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, uniting various sectors of society and embodying a deep love for the country and a high sense of social responsibility.

Parallel to his business and political achievements is Mr Sze's extraordinary record of educational philanthropy. He has served on the Council and Advisory Committees of four local universities, and is currently a Member of the Board of Stewards of The Education University of Hong Kong Foundation, contributing deeply to the development of higher education. He has donated to support Hong Kong Baptist University and its Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies. During his presidency at the CMA, he actively supported the service-learning projects at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, encouraging students to care for society and apply their knowledge in practice. Since 1995, Mr Sze has continuously facilitated the establishment of scholarships for the Vocational Training Council, to encourage students to balance academic growth with vocational skills development. By funding multiple service-learning and campus development projects, he nurtures the younger generation, staying true to his founding conviction of supporting education to cultivate talent.

His service to the community also extends to charity and public welfare. As a former director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and a member of the Community Chest Campaign Committee, he has worked to support the most vulnerable members of society. His appointment as the Justice of the Peace in 2011 by the Government of the HKSAR, and the subsequent awards of the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2015 and the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2025 reflect the high esteem in which he is held.

Mr Sze is also enthusiastic about culture and the arts, having served as the Permanent President of the Eastern District Arts Council and participating in various cultural initiatives. Across diverse domains – business operations, public service, education, and charity – he consistently upholds the conviction of unifying knowledge and action, giving back to society through concrete deeds. In the face of a complex international landscape, Mr Sze recognises that the driving force behind social progress stems from the pursuit of knowledge, and

he has steadfastly championed educational development – fully exemplifying the spirit of a contemporary entrepreneur who serves the community and contributes to the nation.

Mr Chairman, Mr Irons Sze leads by example and pursues excellence with dedication. He has made outstanding contributions to the industrial development of Hong Kong, while tirelessly fostering national and regional cooperative growth. Believing that social progress originates from perpetual inquiry and continuous self-improvement, he has fulfilled this philosophy of life and governance through decades of dedicated career work and public service. On behalf of The Education University of Hong Kong, I am honoured to present to you Mr Irons Sze for the award of Honorary Fellow.