

CITATION FOR PROFESSOR KWONG CHIU LEE DOW
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my great honour to present this most distinguished scholar, Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow to you. Professor Lee Dow is known for his lifelong dedication and commitment to the betterment of education. He has made remarkable contributions in the field of education not only in Australia but also in Hong Kong.

Professor Lee Dow was born and educated in Melbourne. Upon the completion of a science degree with honours in 1959 and a bachelor of education degree from the University of Melbourne in 1963, Professor Lee Dow began his career in education as a college teacher in chemistry. His educational endeavours were extended to the tertiary education sector in 1966 when he joined the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne as a Senior Lecturer in Education. Since then, he had held a number of senior positions at the University, including his appointments as Professor of Education in 1973 and Dean of Education in 1978. His Deanship lasted for twenty years until 1998 when he was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University with responsibility for overseeing human resource management policies and practices, together with broad responsibilities for students and staff. He postponed his retirement to take up the position as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, providing leadership at the University during the critical year of 2004, when the higher education sector was facing the country's education reforms. In 2006, he was further appointed as Vice Chancellor of the University of Ballarat after his retirement. At the University of Melbourne, Professor Lee Dow was known for his contribution to leading organisational change in response to higher education reforms, and his advocacy for university admission of students from financially and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Beyond the University, Professor Lee Dow has made a country-wide impact in Australia as reflected in his diverse community involvement. In addition to being the founding Chair of the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education, he chaired the Board of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, and its predecessor, the Board of Studies, from 1997 to 2003. From 1988 to 1994, he was appointed to the Higher Education Council of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training. In 1997, he served as a member of the Committee for the Australian Government Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy; and in 2002, he was appointed to chair the Commonwealth Review of Teaching and Teacher Education. The Australian Government had adopted many of the recommendations in the report, which significantly shaped teaching in subsequent years. In 2004, Professor Lee Dow became Deputy Chair of the Interim Board of the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership, which subsequently developed into the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership in 2005.

Professor Lee Dow's involvement in the review of higher education led to the publication of the Australian Government Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy report (known as "The West Report") in 1998. Entitled *Learning for Life: Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy*, it has influenced the direction of higher education in the decade that followed. The report set a vision for higher education, a vision that is committed to a respect for scholarship, a culture of lifelong learning, the assurance of access to top quality education for all,

irrespective of social background, and the development of a well-informed and socially responsible community. The report also asserted that a higher education financing and policy framework should be based upon such principles as enhancing access to postsecondary education and providing greater study options for students. Professor Lee Dow's chairmanship of the review of teacher education in Australia also led to the publication of the report *Australia's Teachers: Australia's Future* in 2003. It called for the envisioning of future schooling that requires outstanding leadership, change management, the commitment of the whole school community, as well as highly competent teachers. With regard to teaching and learning, the report asserted the need to energise schools to provide flexible teaching-learning spaces for creative teaching and better learning outcomes. Professor Lee Dow's recent engagement in the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership has also led to the publication of *Teaching Australia: Our Plan 2006-2009* in 2006. This latest work advocates the development of a national system for the accreditation of pre-service teacher education programmes as well as a Charter for the teaching profession.

Hong Kong has also benefited immensely from Professor Lee Dow's contributions. He has given his unfailing support and professional advice as a member of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation from 1992 to 2003, being its longest serving member by the time he completed his term. He accepted the Hong Kong Government's invitation to act as Advisor to the Provisional Governing Council of The Hong Kong Institute of Education, and served as a founding member of the Institute's Council from 1994 to 1998. Professor Lee Dow was also appointed to the Professorial Appointments Committee of the Council, which had set a major milestone for the Institute in strengthening its academic profile with professorial appointments. In 2007, Professor Lee Dow returned as an advisor in the development of the Institute's Development Blueprint for submission to the Government in its quest for university title. He has witnessed the continued growth and development of the Institute of which he has played a significant role in offering advice over the years. Beyond Hong Kong and Australia, Professor Lee Dow has also participated in the Reviews of the National Institute of Education in Singapore, and of several universities in New Zealand.

Professor Lee Dow's distinctive contributions to the education field have been widely recognised. He received the Order of Australia in 1984, the Sir James Darling Medal of the Australian College of Educators in 1994, the Australian Chinese Achievers' Award in 1997, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 2004, Honorary Life Membership in the Australian Association for Research in Education in 2004, and a Gold Medal from the Australian Council for Educational Leaders in 2005.

Professor Lee Dow is a truly eminent scholar and an outstanding educationalist. Notwithstanding his academic standing, one of his most impressive attributes, enjoyed by everyone who has had the privilege of working with him, is his accommodating temperament, sincerity and friendliness. His selfless devotion, genuine commitment and professionalism provide us all with the ideal role model.

Mr Chairman, it is my privilege and pleasure to present Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

CITATION FOR PROFESSOR YAN LIANGKUN
DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman of the Council,

It is my very great pleasure to pay tribute to Professor Yan Liangkun with this citation. Professor Yan is a distinguished conductor in China as well as an outstanding educator in the conducting of choral music. Exemplifying his total commitment to choral conducting and education, he has served as Vice-chairman of the Musicians' Association of China, as well as Chairman of the Council of the Society of Choral Conductors.

Born in Wuchang, Hubei Province, Professor Yan participated in the "*Fight Japanese, Save China*" choral campaign in Wuhan as a youngster. In 1938, he became a member of the Children's Theatrical Troupe, a path that led him to his lifelong career in conducting. In 1940, Professor Yan made his debut, conducting the Children's Theatrical Troupe's performance of the "*Yellow River Cantata*" in the city of Chongqing. He subsequently enrolled with the Theory Composition Department at the National Conservatory of Music, studying under the tutelage of Professor Jiang Dingxian. He also learned all about the specifics of conducting under Mr Wu Bochao during this period. Upon his graduation, he worked in the Hong Kong Chung Wah Academy of Music, teaching musical theory, composition and conducting.

Professor Yan became a teacher at China's Central Conservatory of Music in 1949, while also serving as conductor for the Conservatory's Music Workers' Choir. He then became conductor for China's Central Song and Dance Troupe in 1952. Soon afterwards he gained the opportunity to further his musical studies, when he was sent to the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in the then Soviet Union. As a research student in the Conservatory's Department of Conducting, he pursued his majors in conducting for philharmonic orchestras and choral groups under the mentorship of N. Anosov and V. Sokolov. Upon his return to China in 1958, he has dedicated himself to conducting the Central Philharmonic Society ever since.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1959, Professor Yan conducted Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. He also conducted China's first choral concert in 1961. In 1979, he led China's Central Choir to the Philippines for the first International Choral Festival. In the first Beijing Choral Festival held in 1982, the Choir at the Central Philharmonic Society performed songs from a variety of Western operas, under the guidance of his baton. The performance won him numerous accolades and a wealth of praise. In 1983, the Kodaly's Memorial Committee of Hungary awarded Professor Yan a certificate and medal, in appreciation of his contribution to the promotion of Kodaly's work in China and his commitment to music pedagogy.

Under Professor Yan's leadership, the Central Choir participated in the Yellow River Music Festival in Hong Kong in 1985. Soon afterwards, he was invited to conduct the Hong Kong Choir at the Asian Arts Festival. Back in Beijing in 1986, Professor Yan took up the post of Standing Committee Member and Leader of the Conducting Team for the Second Beijing Choral Festival. In the same year, the Council of the Society of Choral Conductors was set up and he was elected Council President. At the Festival, he won the championship amongst the First Prize

winners in the “professional artistry category”. In recent years, Professor Yan has often been invited to conduct various performances in North America, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Hong Kong, where his accomplishments in conductorship are highly acclaimed. He also lectures regularly in many cities.

Professor Yan started his conducting career in 1940, with the Children's Theatrical Troupe's premiere performance of the “*Yellow River Cantata*” in Chongqing. Over the past six decades, he has conducted this same piece over a thousand times in many different places, both inside China and around the world. Nevertheless, according to him, Chinese audiences, both on the Mainland and overseas, are never tired of this lovely musical composition.

Over the years, Professor Yan has conducted hundreds of well-known choral works, both Chinese and Western, modern and classical. He has made a significant contribution to the artistic development of choral music in China, while also being instrumental in the establishment of professional choirs and choral groups throughout the country. At the same time, his immense achievements in the art of conductorship, amassed through his diverse experience, conscientious research and industrious practices, have added an invaluable treasure trove to China's musical heritage. Professor Yan is one of China's most distinguished choral conductors, deeply loved and revered both by his audiences and the public. His powers are exceptional in the creative musical world – his passion and enthusiasm, tremendous musical achievements, distinctive conducting skills and rigorous action, all merge into an unswerving passion and dedication to drive the ongoing excellence of choral music. He is the ideal role model for everyone who follows his footsteps in the musical world.

These impressive contributions extend to his teaching of choral conducting both in Mainland China and Hong Kong. He regularly hosts master classes for conductors and holds choral workshops in various cities, to explain and interpret the different styles in Chinese choral works. In 1999, for instance, he lectured on these works and the different rendition methods at a large choral music workshop co-organised by the Music Office and the Hong Kong Institute of Education. More than 1,000 teachers and students attended the event.

In 1998, Professor Yan helped the Curriculum Development Institute of the then Education Department to produce an educational CD-ROM, teaching students how to sing the Chinese national anthem. This CD was distributed to all Hong Kong schools. He has also produced CD-ROMs for students of the Hong Kong Institute of Education and primary school teachers teaching Chinese choral works. Furthermore, he featured in the “*Huang Zi Choral Literature Collection*” DVDs, which were jointly produced by Longman Hong Kong Education and the Hong Kong Institute of Education, to introduce the famous Chinese songwriter and music educator, Huang Zi. In this collection, Professor Yan covers rehearsal techniques and interpretations of some of Huang Zi's choral compositions.

Professor Yan's passion and commitment did not stop with his retirement. He continues to host workshops in conducting all over the Mainland and Hong Kong, and tutors doctoral students from universities and music colleges on the Mainland. Many talented young conductors have benefited from Professor Yan's nurture and guidance. He currently serves as honorary advisor of the Hong Kong Children's Choir and the Hong Kong Treble Choirs' Association. As a maestro conductor, his enthusiasm and achievements in the education of choral conducting deserve our praise and salutations.

Mr Chairman, I am honoured to request your conferment of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, on Professor Yan Liangkun.