

30 October 2009

HKIEd to Confer Honorary Doctorates on Two Distinguished Individuals

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) will confer honorary doctorates on distinguished educator Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow and renowned conductor Professor Yan Liangkun at its 15th Congregation.

HKIEd Council Chairman Mr Pang Yiu-kai will preside over the conferment ceremony to be held on 20 November 2009 at the HKIEd Tai Po campus.

Dedicated educator brings impact to education in Hong Kong and Australia

Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow Doctor of Education honoris causa

Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Education honoris causa in recognition of his significant contributions to secondary and higher education in Hong Kong and Australia.

Professor Lee Dow was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Australia before his retirement in 2004. He was the first Chinese to assume the position of Vice-Chancellor in an Australian university.

Professor Lee Dow served on the Council of HKIEd for its first four years (1994 – 1998). In 2007, he was invited to give advice on the Institute's preparation of the Development Blueprint. Professor Lee Dow's endeavours have had a great impact on the development of HKIEd.

Professor Lee Dow graduated in 1959 from the University of Melbourne, where he spent most of his academic career, beginning as a professor of education and rising to Dean of Education, Deputy Vice-Chancellor with special responsibility for human resources management, and later Vice-Chancellor of the University. During his 50 years at the University of Melbourne, he has trained thousands of young professionals for the community.

In addition to his contribution to Australia, Professor Lee Dow has also played a significant role in Hong Kong by joining the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (now known as Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications), advising the Hong Kong government on academic standards, and assisting the establishment of HKIEd.

His remarkable achievements and significant contributions in education are widely recognised. He was appointed Member of the Order of Australia in 1984 for services to education, and was awarded 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.

Eminent conductor contributes to promoting China's choral and orchestral developments

Professor Yan Liangkun
Doctor of Humanities honoris causa

Professor Yan Liangkun will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities honoris causa for his dedication and contribution to China's choral and orchestral developments. He participated in the modification of the Yellow River Cantata which produced the version popular today.

Professor Yan has been conducting choral, orchestral and Chinese music for almost 70 years and is still an active figure on the Chinese music scene. He was one of the founding members of China National Symphony Orchestra Choir, Vice-chairman of the Musicians' Association of China and Chairman of the Council of the Society of Choral Conductors.

Born in 1923 in Wuchang, Hupei, Professor Yan participated in patriotic singing activities under the mentorship of renowned Chinese composer Mr Xian Xinhai during the Sino-Japanese War, when he was a teenager. He entered the National Conservatory of Music in 1942 and studied theory and composition under Professor Jiang Dingxian and conducting under Mr Wu Bochao. He was admitted into the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Moscow in 1954 to pursue postgraduate studies in orchestral and choral conducting.

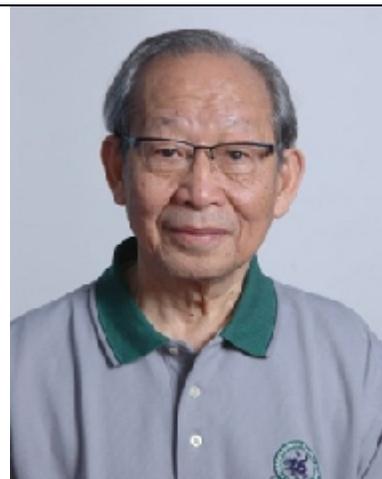
Professor Yan has extensive experience in conducting a diversity of choral pieces for concerts. He has been regarded as one of the most authoritative interpreters of the Yellow River Cantata. He has conducted the Yellow River Cantata more than 1000 times since it was first sung by the Children's Theatre Group in 1940.

During the 1980s, Professor Yan incorporated the recital movement into the third movement to return the Yellow River Cantata to its initial arrangement of eight movements, which became the most played and heard version today.

In recent years, Professor Yan has been invited to lead delegations and performing troupes on tour to North America, Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Hong Kong where, besides conducting, he also gives lectures.



Professor Kwong Chiu Lee Dow



Professor Yan Liangkun