



ITATION FOR DR ELA RAMESH BHATT DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, *honoris causa*

Mr Chancellor,

It is my great privilege to introduce Dr Ela Ramesh Bhatt. She is one of the world's most noteworthy leaders in grassroots development, known for her contributions to helping the underprivileged in India and fighting for the welfare of women in that country and beyond. Inspired by Mohandas Gandhi, Dr Bhatt has dedicated her life to improving the lot of India's poorest and most oppressed women workers.

Dr Bhatt received her Bachelor of Arts in 1952 from the M.T.B. Arts College in Surat, India, whereupon she entered the Sir L.A. Shah Law College in Ahmedabad. In 1954 she received her degree in law and a Gold Medal for her work on Hindu Law. Thereafter, she briefly taught English at the university level in Mumbai. In 1955 she joined the Textile Labour Association in Ahmedabad, where she worked in the legal department.

In 1972, Dr Bhatt founded SEWA, the Self-Employed Women's Association, an independent trade union of the poor, self-employed women, the first of its kind that now has 1.2 million members. The association's aim is to organise women workers and their families, to help them gain full employment and economic self-reliance, to educate them to lead their own movement to achieve economic independence, and to organise for social change. Dr Bhatt is also founding chair of the association's cooperative bank, which was formed in 1974. The bank now has an outreach of 3 million women.

Dr Bhatt is founder and chair of the All-India Association of Micro Finance Institutions, and founding chair of the Indian School of Micro-finance for Women. She founded and served as chair for Women's World Banking, New York; HomeNet, the International Alliance of Home-based Workers; StreetNet, the International Network of Street Vendors; and WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalising, Organising). She served for a decade as a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and is an Executive Board Member of the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi.

Dr Bhatt was a Member of the Upper House of the Indian Parliament from 1986 to 1989, and subsequently served as a Member of the Indian Planning Commission.

She has received numerous distinguished awards, including the Padmashree, an award given by the Indian government in recognition of distinguished contributions to society; the Padma Bhushan Award, which is given by the Indian President to recognise distinguished service to the nation of a high order; the Ramon Magsaysay Award, which is given to Asian individuals and organisations for the achievement of excellence in their fields and is sometimes referred to as the Asian Nobel Prize; the Right Livelihood Award, which is given to individuals "working on practical and exemplary solutions to the most urgent challenges facing the

world today” and is sometimes called the Alternative Nobel Prize; the George Meany-Lane Kirkland Labour Rights Award, given by America’s top labour organisation, the AFL-CIO; a Distinction from the French Legion of Honour; the Madrid Creatividad award; and the Spanish CGAE Human Rights Award. Recently, she was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize, which is given to honour and encourage individuals who have devoted their lives to interreligious cooperation in the cause of peace. She was awarded the prize for her life-time contribution to uplifting poor and oppressed women in India.

Dr Bhatt is a member of the Council of The Elders, a group of eminent global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela in 2007. The Elders use their collective influence and experience to support peace and to address major causes of human suffering. The Elders have described Dr Bhatt as “one of the world’s most remarkable pioneers and entrepreneurial forces in grassroots development. Known as the ‘gentle revolutionary’ she has dedicated her life to improving the lives of India’s poorest and most oppressed women workers, with Gandhian thinking as her source of guidance.”

She is author of *We Are Poor but So Many: The Story of Self-Employed Women in India*, published by Oxford University Press. In addition to Dr Bhatt’s tremendous achievements, she has been awarded honorary doctorates from world-class universities, including Harvard, Yale, and Natal, among others.

Today the Hong Kong Institute of Education has the privilege of awarding Dr Bhatt the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*, for her contributions to some of the least well-off people in the world. Her lifelong dedication to the poor is an exemplary role model for everyone at the Institute, particularly our students. The conferment of this degree is a demonstration of the Institute’s commitment to the ideals embodied in Dr Bhatt’s life.

Mr Chancellor, I have the pleasure to present Dr Ela Bhatt and to request that you confer on her the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.



ITATION FOR MS ANN HUI ON-WAH, MBE
DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa*

Mr Chancellor,

Ms Ann Hui graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1972 with a Master of Arts in English and Comparative Literature. She then continued her studies in the United Kingdom, concentrating on film. Upon returning to Hong Kong, her 1979 directorial debut, *The Secret*, irrevocably marked the transition of Hong Kong's cinema to its "New Wave".

Ms Hui's outstanding films have since won her numerous awards. She was voted Best Director at the 2nd, 15th and 28th Hong Kong Film Awards for *Boat People*, *Summer Snow* and *The Way We Are*, respectively. The only female director to be recognised this way three times, she also received Best Director accolades for *The Way We Are* from the 15th Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards, the 9th Chinese Film Media Awards and the 1st Quality Chinese Film Awards. In recognition of her contributions to the preservation and creation of Asian cultures, she received the Grand Prize of the 19th Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes. She is the first Hong Kong director and the first woman to have received this award.

Despite these remarkable achievements, Ms Hui's path to success was anything but smooth. Repeatedly turned down when trying to find investors, she exhausted her own resources in bringing her early films to the silver screen. Yet, with a passion and dedication to "make films from stories she likes", she arrived where she is today.

As a prominent figure in the film industry, Ms Hui has contributed enormously to its development. She has served as the 32nd Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society, the 41st Head of Juries for the Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival and the 11th Chairman of the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild, the first woman to hold that position.

Throughout an illustrious career of over 30 years, Ms Hui has been acclaimed as one of the most influential female directors in Chinese-language cinema. Her sensitive, bold and delicate style highlights social realities and delves deep into human emotions. Her films display a lasting concern for humanity, society and history, and above all the nation and its people.

Mr Chancellor, Ms Ann Hui has made long-lasting contributions to the film industry, and to the advancement of culture. On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, I present her to you for the award of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

Thank you.



ITATION FOR PROFESSOR SHARON LYNN KAGAN DOCTOR OF EDUCATION, *honoris causa*

Mr Chancellor,

It is my honour to present Professor Sharon Lynn Kagan for the award of the degree Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*. Professor Kagan is one of the world's leading scholars, researchers and spokespersons for young children. Dedicated to advancing the rights of young children and their families, Professor Kagan is renowned for her unique ability to advance the thinking, scholarship, practice and policies that have affected millions of children across the planet. Whether working with poor populations in Southeast Asia or Africa, emerging nations in Eastern Europe and Latin America, or developed countries in Asia, Europe or the Americas, Professor Kagan has used her research and that of others to alter children's educational, developmental and life circumstances. Her work is acknowledged and appreciated by scores of presidents, ministers and global leaders in education, business and industry.

Professor Kagan is the Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Early Childhood and Family Policy and Co-Director of the National Centre for Children and Families at Teachers College, Columbia University, and Professor Adjunct at Yale University's Child Study Centre. She came to these positions after 30 years at Yale University's Centre in Child Development and Social Policy, a rich administrative career in state and local educational agencies, and a highly successful career as an early childhood teacher and Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Early Childhood Education.

In addition to these roles, Professor Kagan assists organisations and governments throughout the world, helping them formulate and implement economic, pedagogical and administrative policies for young children. She regularly consults with global organisations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, the OECD, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. She has worked with ministries of education and health in Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Georgia, Ghana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lesotho, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Paraguay, South Africa, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Her work in Hong Kong dates back 20 years, when she began collaborating with early childhood organisations and tertiary institutions, and assisting preschools.

At home in the United States, Professor Kagan is a frequent consultant to the White House, Congress, the National Governors' Association, the US Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, and numerous states, foundations, corporations and professional associations. She currently serves on over 40 national boards or panels, and is a well sought-after consultant to numerous foundations and corporations. Elected by her peers, Professor Kagan has been president of the world's largest organisation representing young children, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Appointed by the President of the United States, she was the Co-Chair of the National Education Goals Panel on Goal One that established readiness criteria for young children. In addition to chairing the national task force on accountability in early education, Professor Kagan has also been Chair of the board of directors of Family

Support America, a member of President Clinton's education transition team and a member of the National Commissions on Head Start, Chapter One, and the prestigious National Academy of Sciences panels on child care, early mathematics and early childhood pedagogy.

Professor Kagan's value to this vast array of organisations and countries is based on her unique blend of the highest calibre of intellectual scholarship and a firm understanding of the pragmatic realities of practice and policy. As a teacher, researcher and scholar, she has written or edited 15 volumes and over 250 articles, exploring topics as varied as parental and community engagement, the correlates of early development, children's rights, equitable service distribution, systems development and change, ministerial integration, collaboration, bi-lingual education, financing, regulation, professional development, the early childhood workforce, the evaluation of social programmes, early childhood transitions and pedagogical theory. She has been part of major national and international research teams exploring the nature, quality and delivery of early childhood services.

Supported by countless grants from the world's leading foundations and governments, Professor Kagan's scholarship is not only distinguished by its rigour and quality, but also by its inventiveness. She has led teams that have redefined school readiness, established essential elements of the embryonic early childhood system, created a new vision of early childhood leadership and reconstructed the idea of transitions for young children and their families. She has elevated early education from a historically ill-regarded and ill-funded field to one that now stands at the head of national agendas globally.

With her firsthand knowledge of the field and intimate familiarity with early childhood research, Professor Kagan is known as a conceptual leader, constantly advancing the way that early education is regarded and practised. Recognised for her leadership and willingness to take bold stands that often confront convention, she is widely regarded as the cutting-edge scholar of her era, one who consistently redefines practice and policy, always with a focus on the equity and quality of services for children and their families.

In recognition of her life's work, Professor Kagan has received many honours and awards. In addition to an honorary doctorate from Wheelock College, she was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She is also the only woman to have received American education's three most prestigious awards: the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the 2005 James Bryant Conant Award for Lifetime Service to Education from the Education Commission of the States (ECS), and the Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Her greatest rewards, however, come from her graduate students who themselves occupy positions of prominence, and from her loving and giving family.

Mr Chancellor, it is my pleasure and privilege to present Professor Sharon Lynn Kagan and request that you confer on her the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.



**ITATION FOR PROFESSOR VICTOR HENRY MAIR
DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, *honoris causa***

Mr Chancellor,

It is with great honour and respect that I am presenting Professor Victor Henry Mair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania.

An eminent Sinologist from the United States, Professor Mair enjoys international repute for his research in the areas of ancient Chinese literary studies and literature, Dunhuang studies and the history of East-West communication. He has a vast number of publications; in addition to over a hundred papers and hundreds of reviews, he has also published over 20 books, such as *Painting and Performance* (1988) and *T'ang Transformation Texts* (1989) on Dunhuang studies; *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature* (1994) and *The Columbia History of Chinese Literature* (2001), which deal with the genres and history of Chinese literature; and *The Tarim Mummies: Ancient China and the Mystery of the Earliest Peoples from the West* (2000) and *Contact and Exchange in the Ancient World* (2006) on the history of East-West communication. In the area of Chinese philosophy, he translated, annotated and wrote the afterword for *Lao Tzu* (1990), and wrote *Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu* (1994). His many publications have been translated into various languages, including Chinese. Widely circulated in academia as classic texts, these outstanding research results have firmly established Professor Mair's prominent position in Sinology worldwide.

Professor Mair's immense achievements are grounded in, first, his genuine passion for ancient Chinese cultures and his tireless pursuit of academic studies over the years, and second, his solid academic foundation and cross-disciplinary research vision.

Already holding a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, he accepted the recommendation of a foundation to switch his focus to Asian Studies in 1967. As a result, he entered the University of Washington to study Indian Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism and Japanese Buddhism, while also studying Chinese, Tibetan and Sanskrit. Ever since then, he has remained closely connected to the study of ancient Chinese cultures. To pursue his academic research, Professor Mair studied at a range of institutions under the personal tutelage of many renowned scholars. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (1972), a Doctor of Philosophy in Chinese Literature from the East Asian Languages and Civilizations Department at Harvard University (1976) and a Master of Philosophy in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London (1984). These pursuits fortified his academic foundation for the years ahead.

Professor Mair has taught at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. At the latter, a distinguished institution established by America's founding father Benjamin Franklin, he has worked for three decades. During this period, he has frequently served as a visiting scholar in the most prominent academic institutions and research organisations around the world, including the National Humanities Centre in the

State of North Carolina, Duke University, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, Kyoto University, Peking University, the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study and the University of Hong Kong, a testimony to his pre-eminent position as a world-class scholar.

Professor Mair approaches the study of ancient Chinese cultures against a wider global backdrop, within the developmental process of world civilisations and with a particular emphasis on the cultural links between ancient China and various countries in the West. He emphasises the cross-linkages between data from China and those from the West, and those between written materials and archaeological information, often with important findings as a result. Some such examples include his research regarding transformation texts, a popular literary genre in the Tang dynasty, and his research into the origin of Tang dynasty Jintishi (modern or recent style poetry). In particular, his ground-breaking study on the mummies in Turfan, Xinjiang, created a sensation in the Western academic world, and he has added important new findings for Dunhuang studies.

Professor Mair has dedicated himself to long-term academic exchange between the United States and China. Since the 1980s, he has visited China a few times nearly every year, involving himself in academic activities at universities and research organisations, and archaeological fieldwork in the western region. Not only has he brought with him the latest academic news and information from overseas, but he has also introduced the research results of Chinese scholars to the West. Moreover, he has helped many Chinese scholars to visit and further their studies in the United States, broadening their horizons. This might not seem unusual today, but anyone who understands China's path of reform would not find it difficult to appreciate how much his effort was cherished in the early years!

When we come to Professor Mair's academic achievements, we must also mention his wife, Professor Chang Li-ching. The couple married in 1969, and this talented woman from National Taiwan University became Professor Mair's life partner and assistant in the advancement of scholarship for the next 41 years. Sharing a passion for the reformation and development of Chinese language education in the United States, the couple worked together to promote romanised Chinese and edit the *ABC Chinese Dictionary*. They also worked to reduce illiteracy in China. Their story is indeed a moving romance linking China and America.

Professor Mair has also made many contributions to education in Hong Kong. Ten years ago, he served as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong. Last summer, he was invited to visit our Institute as a Visiting Professor and Senior Researcher at the Research Centre for Chinese Literature and Literary Culture. He not only gave a series of special-topic lectures and collaborated with faculty on research work, but also provided extremely valuable opinions and suggestions regarding the curriculum of the new Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Language Studies offered by the Faculty of Languages. He highly commended the curriculum's direction, and kindly promised to take up part of the teaching duties.

Mr Chancellor, Professor Mair has made remarkable contributions to the research and teaching of ancient Chinese cultures, and to academic exchange between China and the United States. On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, I present Professor Victor Henry Mair to you for the award of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.