

18 October 2011

HKIEd to Confer Honorary Doctorates on Four Distinguished Individuals

Four distinguished individuals – Dr Fong Yun-wah, Professor Colin Nelson Power, Ms Sheila Purves and Professor Ting Pang-hsin – will be conferred honorary doctorates at the 17th Congregation of The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) on 2 December 2011.

Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, Chancellor of the Institute and Chief Executive of the HKSAR, will preside over the Conferment Ceremony at HKIEd Tai Po Campus.

Renowned Entrepreneur Contributes to Education Development in Hong Kong and Mainland China

Dr Fong Yun-wah, SBS, JP, MBE ~ Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

Dr Fong Yun-wah is a renowned entrepreneur and industrialist who has been devoted to the advancement of local and national education, cultural exchange and social welfare.

Dr Fong is the Chairman of the Hip Shing Hong Group of Companies. He has been actively engaged in educational causes in a personal capacity, as well as in his role as Chairman of the Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation and Fong's Family Foundation. His commitment and contribution to education development are reflected in his support for all of the eight University Grants Committee-funded institutions, including HKIEd, and non-profit organisations such as the Po Leung Kuk, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association.

His benevolence has also extended to Mainland China over the past 20 years, with the establishment of 120 primary schools, 29 secondary schools, 19 kindergartens and nearly 400 education facilities, and scholarship funds in higher education institutions, across 31 provinces, cities and autonomous regions.

In addition to education, Dr Fong has also spared no effort in promoting medical services, technology, environmental protection, social welfare and culture. His extensive community involvement includes being Chairman of the Hong Kong Economic Exchange and Honorary President of the China Charity Federation, as well as Vice-Patron of the Hong Kong Child Health Foundation. In the past he has also been the Vice-President of the Real Estate Development Association of Hong Kong, a Director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Chairman of the Po Leung Kuk and a Member of the Selection Committee for the First Government of the Hong Kong SAR.

Dr Fong has received honorary doctorates and been awarded fellowships from 16 universities on the Mainland and holds the title of Honorary Citizen of 14 Chinese cities. He was awarded the entitlement of the asteroid #5198 in the name of "Fong Yun Wah" by

the International Committee for the Naming of Asteroid/Comet and the Silver Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR Government amongst other awards.

Distinguished Educator Advocates Education for All

Professor Colin Nelson Power ~ Doctor of Education *honoris causa*

Professor Power will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Education for his dedication to education and his contribution to advancing education for all, the reform of the education system and improving the status of teachers internationally.

During his time as the Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 1999 to 2000, and Assistant Director-General for Education from 1989 to 1998, Professor Power played a leading role within UNESCO and in the UN System in the struggle to alleviate poverty, to defend human rights, and to protect world cultural and natural heritage sites.

He was responsible for the overall policy and management of all UNESCO's education and training programmes in its 192 Member States, including all major global and regional education initiatives, such as the International Literacy Year, Education for All, the International Commission on Education for the 21st Century, World Education Reports and World Teachers' Day.

Professor Power is best known academically for his research into science education and the teaching-learning process. He received his Ph.D. in science education from the University of Queensland, where he is currently an Adjunct Professor, and he is also a Professor Emeritus of Flinders University of South Australia. Professor Power has played an active role in professional associations and in the community, including being President of the Australian Association of Research in Education, the Commonwealth Consortium for Education and the World Education Fellowship. He is Foundation Editor of *Educational Research for Policy and Practice* and also a prolific writer with 13 books and over 250 published works on education.

In recognition of his services to education and the community, Professor Power has received numerous awards, including being made a Member of the Order of Australia, the Moscow Medal by presidential decree, a Fellow of the Asia-Pacific Association for Education Research, a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, honorary doctorates from the University of Sydney and Kazakh State Technological University and the Clarence McNamara Award for Excellence of service to Australian Education.

Passionate Therapist Extends Skills to Help Disabled

Ms Sheila Purves, MBE

~ Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

Ms Sheila Purves will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences for her quarter century of effort introducing community-based rehabilitation to Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Ms Purves has been dedicated to teaching and promoting modern rehabilitation in mainland China and Hong Kong on behalf of the Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation (HKSR) since 1983. Today she is renowned as "Bei Lao Shi" (Teacher Purves) throughout China's rehabilitation sector.

Ms Purves strongly believes that community-based rehabilitation is the best approach to meet the needs of people with disabilities, as they need continuing simple and low-cost support, close to their homes and relevant to their daily lives. Under her leadership, the World Health Organization's Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation in Hong Kong has developed training programmes in community-based rehabilitation now implemented across the nation. Many of her more than 20,000 students have become influential clinicians, teachers, researchers and leaders in China's rehabilitation field.

After the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, Ms Purves led teams of volunteers to support acute rehabilitation efforts, and worked with local organisations to set up a community-based rehabilitation resource centre for the earthquake zone. Many of the Ministry of Health's rehabilitation teams sent to Sichuan were headed by graduates from Ms Purves's training programmes.

Ms Purves is currently Director of the HKSR's International and China Division. She is also an honorary advisor, professor and lecturer at many hospitals and medical universities in different parts of China, and she has undertaken consulting assignments for various international, national and local organisations, including the WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Hong Kong's Kadoorie Charitable Foundation. Britain honoured her with an MBE "for services to child welfare in China" in 1997.

Ms Purves earned a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation at the University of British Columbia in 1979, and a Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University in 1996. She is licensed as both an Occupational Therapist and a Physical Therapist.

Distinguished Linguist Contributes to Better Understanding of Chinese Languages

Professor Ting Pang-hsin

~ Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

Professor Ting Pang-hsin will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities for his distinguished academic accomplishments and his standing in Chinese linguistics.

Professor Ting is a leading Chinese linguist specialising in the study of the history and dialects of Chinese languages. He has had a profound impact on academic research into Chinese linguistics, having provided a systemic study and reference to understand the change and development of Chinese phonology, dialects and colloquial languages.

Professor Ting was Professor of Chinese Linguistics from 1989 to 1994, and Agassiz Professor of Chinese Linguistics from 1994 to 1998 at the University of California at Berkeley (UCB), USA. He then served as Dean of Humanities and Social Science at Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST) from 1996 to 2004 and currently is Emeritus Agassiz Professor of Chinese Linguistics at UCB and Emeritus Professor of Humanities at HKUST.

He has also been a visiting professor and taught at several universities in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and the US, including Peking University, Zhejiang University, National Taiwan University and National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, National Singapore University, and the University of California at Santa Cruz, USA.

He has significantly contributed to promoting research into Chinese linguistics and to establishing academic institutions. He was Founding Director of the Chao Yuen Ren Center for Chinese Linguistics at the University of California at Berkeley, President of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics, and Director of the Institute of History and Philology at Academic Sinica in Taiwan.

Professor Ting's outstanding research has been widely recognised. He was named an Honorary Member of the Linguistic Society of America in 2000 and elected as an Academician of Academic Sinica in 1986. He has published widely in Chinese linguistics, phonology and dialects.

~ Ends ~

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Helen Mok at 2948 6054/9198 2489 or Ms Janice Man at 2948 6053/9197 7876.