

**Citation for
Professor Michael W. Apple, FAERA
Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my honour to present Professor Michael W. Apple for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*. Professor Apple is the John Bascom Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is widely recognised as one of the world's leading critical educators and educational theorists, specialising in education and power, cultural politics, curriculum theory and research, critical teaching and the development of democratic schools. He enjoys very high standing in North and South America, Europe, South Africa and Asia, particularly in Mainland China. His global impact is reflected in the many translations of his books and publications over more than 40 years, and by the constant demand for his services as a speaker and collaborative progressive educator.

Born in 1942, Professor Apple is a third generation Russian immigrant. Describing himself as a “red diaper baby”, he was raised in a deeply leftist family in a poor neighbourhood of Paterson in New Jersey, one of the most political cities in the United States and home to some of the more radical worker movements. As a boy, Professor Apple accompanied his grandfather, who worked in the textile mills, to weekly meetings of the Workmen's Circle – an American non-profit working class organisation that promotes social and economic justice. His family background and upbringing had a significant impact on him, sowing the seeds for the values that permeate his work and leading to his courageous activism and identification with unionists and oppressed workers around the world.

Poverty is a very real experience for Professor Apple. Without the means for full-time university education, he had to attend two small state teachers' colleges at night for his first degree while working as a printer during the day. Despite that hardship, he received his BA in Education from Glassboro State College, New Jersey, in 1966, an MA in Curriculum and Philosophy in 1967 and an education doctorate in Curriculum and Teaching in 1970 from Columbia University.

When Professor Apple began working in the inner city of Paterson as a relief teacher, 80 per cent of the population was on some form of assistance. He was also often assigned to schools with large African-American populations. As a teacher in elementary and secondary schools, he served as president of the teachers' union. These experiences strongly influenced his continuing

work with educational systems, governments, universities, unions, activists and dissident groups throughout the world to democratise educational research, policy and practices. What he went through during this period crystallised into insightful critiques in his subsequent publications. In his book *Official Knowledge* he noted: "It was made strikingly clear to me then that unless we acted politically – both inside the school and in the larger society – to get less racist, sexist and class-biased curricula, more critically oriented teaching practices, and closer relationships between schools and the local community, neither I nor my students and colleagues would have much of a chance of widespread success."

In research conducted around the world, Professor Apple has witnessed how capitalism can have a disastrous impact on the impoverished, underprivileged and under-represented sectors of the community. For decades he has written about how education can serve the agenda of those in power and those who hold economic influence in the wider community, and is often not democratic. This is not to say that Professor Apple fails to recognise education as a force for change. Rather, he considers that schools are often incubators for social activism, but there is still much work to be done to ensure the democratisation of education.

Professor Apple's research and writing has been widely published, both in hundreds of articles and a series of books on education. These books include, among others, *Ideology and Curriculum* and *Official Knowledge*, which were selected as two of the most significant books on education in the 20th century. Professor Apple is also the author of *Educating the 'Right' Way: Markets, Standards, God, and Inequality*, which was named the 2006 American Educational Research Association Book of the Year.

Among the more recent issues Professor Apple has addressed has been what he describes as the neo-conservative push to impose a more right-wing view on textbooks, the national curriculum and teacher education. In his research and writing he looks at movements of resistance around the world that have been conducted by teachers, among other social activists, often in opposition to the neo-liberal or neo-conservative agendas within education systems or imposed by governments. Looking at class, race and gender within these struggles, Professor Apple's work has been filled with his own reflections and observations. He considers being a critical scholar and activist as an organic process with all the tensions, joy and at times very real sacrifices that entails, and where there is no end point or conclusion. That feeling is aptly captured in his quote, "To use Heschel's term, one 'wrestles' with this for one's entire life. But I can't live an ethical life without such wrestling. And I wouldn't have it any other way."

Throughout his illustrious career, Professor Apple has worked with both government and non-government organisations internationally to promote education reform. In addition to his work at the University of Wisconsin, he is also Professor of Educational Policy Studies at the Institute of Education at the University of London, and has been a World Scholar and Distinguished Professor of Educational Policy Studies at many other universities throughout the world.

In recognition of his achievements, Professor Apple has received numerous accolades including, among others, honorary doctorates from McGill University in Canada, the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina and the Institute of Education at the University of London. He has also been given the UCLA Medal for Distinguished Academic Achievement by the University of California Los Angeles and a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Educational Research Association.

Mr Chairman, Professor Apple has worked on education reform, lectured and taught in a considerable number of countries throughout the world, with significant impact on the development of more socially critical and democratic educational policies and practices. It is my privilege to present Professor Michael W. Apple, and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

**Citation for
Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung, GBS, JP
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my honour to present Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. An outstanding accountant by occupation, Dr Li has tirelessly dedicated himself to serving the Hong Kong community through his involvement in academic, professional, political and public service. When he served at our predecessor Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd), the footprint of his contribution made it possible for ambitious plans to be launched and collaboration forged.

Dr Li's passion to serve began at the tender age of 15. He first volunteered as a teacher over the summer at a Sheung Shui village school, where he looked after children from the neighbourhood farming community. In the summer after his final year of university, as an exchange student, he helped look after children with learning disabilities in the United States. Ever since he started his accountancy career, Dr Li's generous spirit has propelled him to continue volunteering in various roles at over 100 non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas. It is no exaggeration to describe serving the community as an integral part of his life.

Dr Li completed his education in Hong Kong at the St Paul's Co-educational College, and then went abroad to further his studies in Britain, where he graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Manchester in 1975. He qualified as an Associate Chartered Accountant with the then Coopers & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers, London in 1978. Dr Li began practising as a Certified Public Accountant in Hong Kong in 1980 and is now the Senior Partner at Li, Tang, Chen and Co., which his father founded in 1947. Despite his demanding schedule and heavy workload, Dr Li has never ceased to draw on his expertise in finance and accountancy to serve in a voluntary capacity in numerous academic, community and government-related organisations. Many of his commitments have lasted for decades, including his work at the Hong Kong Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Association and the Causeway Bay Kaifong Welfare Association – at both of which after nearly 40 years he remains Honorary President.

Dr Li also has a long and extensive association with the higher education sector. He was appointed, among others, Honorary Treasurer of the then Open Learning Institute, now the

Open University of Hong Kong (1991-1994), Council Member and Court Member of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1998-2007), Member of the Court and Foundation of Hong Kong Baptist University (2009-date), Treasurer of our predecessor Hong Kong Institute of Education (2009-2015) and Steward of The Education University of Hong Kong Foundation (2015-date).

When he served on the Council of the former Institute, Dr Li, tapping his wealth of knowledge and experience in public finance, took prudent and yet bold approaches in overseeing the HKIED budget. His efforts resulted in a healthy surplus that allowed the Institute to embark on various development plans introduced under the “Education-plus” vision. It was during his tenure that the Institute underwent a period of remarkable growth and transformation, with programme expansion into multidisciplinary areas and postgraduate studies. In a similar vein, Dr Li laid the foundation for future collaboration between the Institute and the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI), of which he was Chairman from 2005 to 2012. In 2014 the Institute sealed an agreement with HKSI, offering education opportunities to foster dual career pathways for elite athletes. Under the agreement, athletes recommended by HKSI can enrol in undergraduate programmes at the University and continue competing abroad at the same time. As a steward of The Education University of Hong Kong Foundation, Dr Li now provides valuable advice and gives insightful views on the ongoing development of the University.

Although he has served the public in many areas, including youth and education, social welfare and district affairs, as well as in his professional field, Dr Li is perhaps best remembered as being the youngest appointed Member of the Legislative Council in 1991, and one of the youngest appointed members, of the then District Board in 1985. His other prominent roles have been as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council (1995-2004) and Member of the 10th, 11th and 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (2002-date), just to name two. Now aged 63, Dr Li shows no signs of slowing down in his voluntary work.

For his exemplary services and contributions, Dr Li has received numerous accolades. The enviable list includes professional awards, such as the first Accountant of the Year of Hong Kong in 1993 and the International Accountant Award in 2002. He has also received honours from many academic institutions, including the award of Honorary Doctor of Social Sciences from Hong Kong Baptist University in 2000; Honorary Doctor of Laws from his alma mater, the University of Manchester, in 2002; Senior Friend and Honorary Alumnus of the London Business School from 2002 until now; Honorary Fellow of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2002 and Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2003; and Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter Honoree of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2004.

In recognition of his resolute support for Hong Kong and international organisations, boards and institutions, and his dedicated public service, Dr Li was named Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum in 1993; received the Queen's Badge of Honour, a civil award presented by the governments of British Overseas Territories, in 1988; was named a Non-official Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1991 and an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1996; and received a Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) from the HKSAR government in 2003. He is also the recipient of a large number of other awards, a sign of appreciation for his outstanding work and contributions as a model social leader. He has set a wonderful example for the young people of our University and city of how to tap one's expertise and devote time and energy to societal well-being.

Mr Chairman, Dr Li commands wide respect for his excellent work for and service to the community. It is my pleasure and privilege to present Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.