



ITATION FOR

DR DANIEL TSE CHI-WAI, GBS, CBE, OBE, JP

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, *honoris causa*

Mr Chairman,

It is my honour to present Dr Daniel Tse Chi-wai for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. A widely respected leader in higher education in Hong Kong, Macao and beyond, and an exceptional role model firmly committed to public services, Dr Tse has made profound contributions to the region's social development over a distinguished career of more than five decades.

Born in Macao, Dr Tse completed his secondary education in his home town. He then entered Hong Kong Baptist College, which had been founded just a year earlier in 1956, to study sociology. With a scholarship from the College, he pursued university studies in the United States. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics in 1960 and a Master's degree in Physics in 1962 from Baylor University. After receiving his doctorate in physics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1965, he became a researcher on nuclear magnetic resonance at Pittsburgh and Columbia University. In 1968, despite a promising career as a scientist in the United States and a great passion for physics and science, he accepted an invitation extended by Dr Lam Chi-fung, then President of Hong Kong Baptist College, to return. His decision was driven by his desire to serve his alma mater at a time of crisis, when Hong Kong faced a severe outflow of talents in the wake of the 1967 disturbance. His first task was to rebuild the deserted department of physics, which was left with only one assistant and one lecturer at the time.

Beginning in 1971, Dr Tse served as president of Baptist College (later Baptist University, HKBU) until his retirement in 2001. Under his leadership, the College grew from strength to strength, through the development of many innovative programmes. Dr Tse's unwavering dedication and pioneering leadership led HKBU to achieve many historical milestones: from a private post-secondary college when he took up presidency, to a fully funded public tertiary institution in 1983 and ultimately an institution with university status in 1994. As Emeritus President of HKBU, Dr Tse has retained a strong bond with the University.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of working with Dr Tse in what was then Baptist College in the mid-1980s. As a young academic who assumed headship of the Chinese Department in my early thirties, I was deeply indebted to Dr Tse for his guidance and mentorship, which proved to be invaluable in the decades to come.

Since his retirement, Dr Tse has dedicated his full attention to the development of higher education in his home town of Macao, where he was appointed by the Macao SAR Chief Executive to chair the University Council of the University of Macau from 2001 to 2014. During that period he also took time to develop a Research Centre for the Sustainable Development Strategies for the Macao SAR, and served as its founding director from 2005 to 2010. Dr Tse has just completed a one year service as Advisor of the University Council of the University of Macau, and is still serving as President of the International Society for Chinese Medicine (Macao SAR) and Chair of the Executive Committee of the University of Macau Development Foundation.

Earlier this year, Dr Tse kindly agreed to advise HKIEd in a personal capacity, alongside two other prominent figures in education, regarding possible legislative amendments in relation to our university title. The Institute has benefited greatly from his wealth of knowledge and wise counsel.

Dr Tse's commitment to the field of education has been matched only by his dedication to public service. He was a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Hong Kong before the handover, and served as an Advisor to the People's Republic of China on Hong Kong Affairs, a member of the Basic Law Consultative Committee and a member of the Preparatory Committee for the HKSAR of the National People's Congress before the transfer of sovereignty. He served as a Member of the Ninth and the Tenth National Committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from 1998 to 2008.

Dr Tse has also chaired many important government committees, including the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the Advisory Council on Food and Environmental Hygiene, the Bilingual Laws Advisory Committee and the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) Advisory Committee on Corruption.

For his distinguished contributions, Dr Tse was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1977. He was honoured with the title of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1986 and the title of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1991. He was awarded a Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 1998, and a Medal of Merit – Education from the Macao SAR Government in 2014. In addition to that from HKIEd, Dr Tse has been awarded nine honorary doctoral degrees and three honorary professorships from distinguished universities in Europe, the US, Australia, Hong Kong and mainland China.

In addition to his career as an esteemed educator actively involved in public service, Dr Tse is also known as the "Poet President" for his prolific output of Chinese poems. On this momentous occasion, I would like to highlight a poem he wrote in 1977 regarding Baptist College's vision and dedication to education, composed after the release of the controversial 1977 Green Paper in which the values of the College and other private institutions were severely undermined. In 1978, then Hong Kong Governor Murray MacLehose visited the College's campus as the officiating guest for the opening of the new Academic Community Hall. At the ceremony, Dr Tse recited from his poem, 學院頌, which means "Ode to the College". His heartfelt and stirring words brought the audience to tears, and the former Hong Kong governor announced during the ceremony that the Green Paper could be revised, marking a triumphant moment for Baptist College. Since then, the event has continued to occupy a special place in many people's memories, serving as an inspiring reminder of Dr Tse's passion and extraordinary commitment to the cause of education. Originally written in Chinese, the following is a translated excerpt:

To remain faithful towards expectations from society,
to forge future paths for the next generation,
as well as to carry forward the finest tradition within our beliefs,
under a situation where resources are extremely scarce,
resolutely, they have opened the gate of higher education.

Mr Chairman, Dr Tse's work has contributed tremendously to the higher education sector, and he has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to public service in Hong Kong. It is my pleasure and privilege to present Dr Daniel Tse Chi-wai, and request that you confer on him the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.