

Honorary Fellow Mr Chan Yung



Public Orator Professor Samuel Ho Mun-yin

Chairman of the Council and President:

Mr Chan Yung is an HKSAR deputy to the National People's Congress (Convenor), a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong and a senior registered social worker. In his younger days, he developed compassion for the socially disadvantaged and an indomitable will, which have produced a long-lasting impact on his career development.

Mr Chan lived apart from his parents when he was little and spent his early childhood with his maternal grandparents in mainland China. In the 1980s, Mr Chan, then a teenager, came to Hong Kong to be reunited with his parents and family members. All six were housed in a shed of no more than 80 square feet in the Kwai Chung Temporary Housing Area. He learned first-hand about hardship, acquired coping skills and appreciated the mutually supportive spirit among his neighbours who lived in similarly impoverished circumstances. During this time, the idea of “helping people to help themselves” and vice versa came to him, motivating him to turn to serve the disadvantaged in society.

Mr Chan was in the first cohort of students studying the full-time Bachelor of Social Work with Honours programme at City University of Hong Kong (known as City Polytechnic of Hong Kong at the time) in 1991. The professional training that he received allowed him to see that social work is a

process of self-discovery and a lesson in resourcefulness. To succeed, dogged persistence is essential. Mr Chan likens this character trait to digging a well. First, pick a spot with the greatest potential of yielding water after inspection. You should keep digging to achieve success, even if water does not flow immediately. Many an endeavour comes to nought in life because we give up too soon. Persistence, Mr Chan concludes, pays off in the end.

Mr Chan puts his “Theory of Well Digging” into practice. He is profoundly interested in politics. He learned from the practice of other politicians and took a master's course in law and public affairs where he delved deeply into the field's theoretical knowledge. The “Theory of Well Digging” seems to coincide in spirit with cross-disciplinary studies at university. Scholars often apply themselves diligently without anything to show for their efforts before they eventually succeed.

His motto is the famous line “Great virtue is like water” in Laozi’s *Daodejing*. Water nurtures all lives but does not compete with them, and nothing can compare to water’s gentleness and resilience. To Mr Chan, water carries the additional meaning of inclusiveness. Despite its massive size, the ocean comprises droplets of water, all of which are interdependent, like the teachers, students, and alumni at CityU, his former neighbours at the Kwai Chung Temporary Housing Area, and when it comes to that, members of any community. Mr Chan’s goal is to help people contribute to society by using their strengths.

Mr Chan holds a number of public offices and actively facilitates policy dialogue between the government and the public, especially the disadvantaged and grassroots groups. He is a member of the ICAC Advisory Committee on Corruption and he was appointed Justice of Peace in 2011 and awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2014 in recognition of his active role in public affairs and contributions to the development of Hong Kong.

Mr Chan attributes his success to support from CityU, his teachers and alumni groups. He has tried to give back to his alma mater by serving on the Court and the Departmental Advisory Committee, for what is now called the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He was Vice-

Chairman of the CityU Eminence Society, a senior alumni association, and the Convenor of the Alumni Ambassador Scheme Advisory Committee.

Chairman of the Council and President, Mr Chan Yung has deep affection for CityU and contributes significantly. At the same time, he dedicates himself to improving life in Hong Kong, benefitting society as a whole. I respectfully present to you Mr Chan Yung for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of City University of Hong Kong.