

Honorary Fellow Dr The Hon Chiang Lai-wan

Citation written and delivered by Professor Linda Wong Lai Yeuk-lin

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Dr Chiang Lai-wan is a paragon of success in Hong Kong. She is active in public service all her life, taking up more than 50 public appointments in the political, industrial, commercial and educational arenas as well as taking up women's issues. She is the maker of her own career, and has contributed admirably to the promotion of the exchange and collaboration between the industrial and commercial sectors of Hong Kong and various in the mainland. She is tireless in the pursuit of learning, and has obtained higher degrees in a variety of disciplines. Her determination and accomplishments command our respect.

Dr Chiang Lai-wan traces her ancestry to He Ze in Shandong. She was born in Hong Kong and her father is Dr Chiang Chen, the renowned industrialist and philanthropist. Life was hard in the early days of the launching of the family business and, at different times when she was very young, Dr Chiang lived with the other seven members of her family in a shed that was only a few hundred square feet big in the squatter area of Tai Hum Village. These difficult experiences in her early years helped shape the indomitable and forward-looking spirit for which she is known.

Dr Chiang Lai-wan graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in Canada in 1981, and immediately returned to Hong Kong to join the family corporation, the Chen Hsong Group. Starting at the lowest level in the company hierarchy, she was promoted on the strength of her performance to the board of directors, making tough decisions for the company in seven short years. With patience, confidence, a love of her country and a trailblazing spirit, she helped the Chen Hsong Group expand its business in the mainland, with impressive results. In 1988, she founded the Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council with a mission to cultivate industrial talent. She was instrumental in bringing about the Shenzhen

Management Training Centre, the first organisation, which opened in 1994, to be supported by Hong Kong's business sector to train specialists in mainland China.

When her family corporation went public in the 1980s, Dr Chiang left to launch her own business in retail, telecommunication and real estate, establishing Li Dong Industrial & Trading Investment Company Limited and C & L Holdings Limited.

Dr Chiang is currently the Chair of C & L Holdings Limited. Her public offices include the following: Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Vice Chairperson of the Hong Kong Federation of Women, Chartered President of the Hong Kong Young Industrialists Council, Convener of the Women Entrepreneurs Committee of the Hong Kong Federation of Women, Vice-Chair of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, Standing Committee Member of The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Honorary General Committee Member of The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Honorary President of the Hong Kong Youths Unified Association, and Vice-Chair of the Chinese Association of Women Entrepreneurs. She was also Member of the Council of City University of Hong Kong, the Council of Lingnan University, and the Court of the University of Hong Kong. Named Justice of the Peace by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Dr Chiang is also a recipient of the Inaugural Young Industrialist Award and Outstanding Women Awards of Hong Kong, among other prizes. Most recently, she was elected a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong.

The lessons she learned from her family in her youth and the many challenges she has since faced have made her an outstanding leader. In her work, she treats her colleagues and subordinates as friends. While she always maintains high standards, she also has a compassionate touch. She sets herself as a model of efficiency and meticulousness and where others might be discouraged, failure only spurs her to work harder. She is a person of principle, and gives everything as she works toward her goals. Wanting

a better understanding of the social situation in the mainland, she took the arduous path of completing a Master Degree at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and a PhD at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Dr Chiang Lai-wan offers freely her constructive views on national and Hong Kong affairs. With the hope of bridging the two areas, she has always shown deep concern for and great interest in the development of politics and economics in the mainland and Hong Kong. She made concrete suggestions in fields as diverse as economic reform in the mainland, custom policies, grass-root corporations, the capital of Hong Kong investment, the promotion of collaboration in the pan-Pearl River Delta, and Hong Kong's role in China's Twelfth Five-Year Plan. She also speaks up for Hong Kong's commercial interests and fights for a fairer competitive environment for Hong Kong business by articulating the difficulty of doing business in the mainland.

Over the years, Dr Chiang has travelled all over China, involving herself in disaster and poverty relief and educational initiatives. In 2008, upon witnessing the horrendous Sichuan earthquake, she participated in the Family to Family Earthquake Relief Programme, where she helped victims rebuild their home-land. She is also attentive to the welfare of women at the grass-root's level, establishing two service centres: the Women Service Association Chiang Lai Wan Community Service Centre in Kwai Chung and Chiang Lai Wan Community Service Centre in Tin Yan Estate in Tin Shui Wai.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, with her visionary corporate spirit, Dr Chiang Lai-wan has shown great concern for the development of China and Hong Kong. She seeks to repay society by supporting education and other philanthropic works, and, as such should be regarded as a model for all to aspire to. In recognition of her contributions, I request the University award her the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.