

Honorary Fellow Mr Kenneth Koo

Citation written and delivered by Professor Gu Minkang

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Allow me the honour of introducing Mr Kenneth Koo. Mr Koo was born in Hong Kong in 1960, but his ancestry is rooted in Beilun District in Ningbo City, Zhejiang. He is the grandson of Mr Koo Chung-shui, who was the pioneer behind the contemporary shipping industry in China, and the son of Mr Koo Kou-hwa, who was an excellent predecessor in the Hong Kong shipping industry. Having graduated from the University of San Diego in the United States, Mr Koo is now the Chairman of TCC GROUP and was the Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association from 2009 to 2011.

Mr Koo, representing the third generation of this well-known shipping family, has been a vigorous leader in the development of Hong Kong's shipping industry. He was named "Seatrade Asia Personality of the Year for 2012" for his tireless devotion and passionate contribution to the industry. He lives by the motto "ordinary is blissful", and I believe it takes a man with such abundant experience of the oceans, and who has witnessed its greatness as well as its rage and power, to have such an inspiring outlook on life. He told me that "Life is too short to be toiling over fame and fortune, as they are but ephemeral things, whilst the true value of success lies intrinsically. One must instead work hard at everything, pay serious attention to one's family life and harmony; because it is one's family that acts as the secure anchor that prevents a ship from drifting." Indeed, Mr Koo's insightful definition of the term "ordinary" stays true to his family spirit of "Respectful Diligence and Humble Living".

Not only is he an outstanding member in his field, Mr Koo is also known for his impressive contributions to society and his commitment to corporate social responsibility. In 1995, under his leadership, a revolutionary book

for guidelines of selection and application of ballast tank coatings was published; and in 2001, he promoted the establishment of the Network of China Maritime Education and Training Schools, which includes 13 major maritime educational and training institutions in China. By doing so, he was pioneering a new set of standards for training maritime experts in the mainland. He generously funded the sustained development of the shipping industry through an investment worth \$4 million US dollars on a study of emissions reduction through combustion efficiency improvements in marine diesel engines carried out by the University of Southern California. He also set up a forum with the Classification Society Det Norske Veritas that advised the International Maritime Organization and the International Association of Classification Societies on the parameters for the safe performance and operation of marine machinery systems.

During his time as the Chairman of the Shipowners Association, Mr Koo was involved in the organisation of the Hong Kong Maritime Awareness Week, an event that served to promote local understanding of the importance of establishing the Hong Kong Maritime Centre. Mr Koo believes that Hong Kong should become a maritime centre like London. He further believes that the Hong Kong Maritime Centre should be built at a high level and should offer diversified maritime related services, especially in the areas of financing, maritime arbitration, maritime insurance, the freight futures trade, training high quality experts, and so on.

Despite living in Hong Kong, Mr Koo's heart is closely tied to his hometown where he has made numerous contributions in the form of building schools, hospitals and libraries, among others, as an expression of his gratitude towards the city which helped nurture his entire family. Mr Koo has received many accolades from local people in his hometown for his good deeds. He was awarded the title of "Honorary Citizen" by the Ningbo People's Congress Standing Committee and "Model Patriot" by the People's Government of Zhejiang Province in 2006 and 2007, respectively. In addition, he is one of the Outstanding Representatives of Overseas Youth who are the Third Generation of Ningbo City, and a Member of the Political Consultative Committee of Zhejiang Provision.

Mr Koo has given his wholehearted support to the establishment and operation of the Hong Kong Centre for Maritime and Transportation Law at City University of Hong Kong. He had the foresight that Hong Kong would be able to emulate the United Kingdom in terms of streamlined high-end high productivity maritime services by creating such a centre and offering courses on maritime and transportation law. To ensure the success of the project, he has offered his financial support and acted as an advisor.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, Mr Kenneth Koo's lack of pretense, his diligence, perseverance, pioneering spirit and strong sense of dedication towards his field and the rest of society, as well as the selfless and significant support that he has given to City University of Hong Kong, makes him an excellent role model for every student, alumnus and sector of society.

In recognition of Mr Kenneth Koo's achievements and contributions, Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, I have the great honour, on behalf of the University, to call upon you to confer on him the title of Honorary Fellow.