

Honorary Doctor of Science

Professor ZHANG Junsheng

Citations written and delivered by Professor CHENG Pei-kai

Chairman:

Professor Zhang Junsheng graduated from the Optical-Mechanical Specialism in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Zhejiang University. Upon graduation, he took up teaching duties in the University, rising from Tutor, Lecturer, and Associate Professor to Professor. He also served as an Adjunct Professor in Zhongshan University and the Beijing Broadcast Academy. Since 1978, he had also taken up administrative duties in Zhongshan University, serving as, respectively, the Mechanical Engineering Departmental Party Secretary, Administrator-in-charge of the Department, and Standing Member and Deputy Secretary of the University Party Committee. All in all, he attained outstanding achievements in educational administration. In 1983, he was transferred to the post of Deputy Secretary of the Hangzhou Municipal Party Committee, where he began his political career.

In 1985, Professor Zhang was assigned to work in the New China News Agency (NCNA) Hong Kong Branch as the Deputy Head of its Publicity Department. Later, he was promoted to Head. From 1987, when he served as NCNA's Deputy Director, until he relinquished his post in 1998, he participated in and witnessed the process of Hong Kong's return to China. During his time in Hong Kong, he also served as the NCNA's spokesman, charged with a duty to explain China's policy, and carry out a vast amount of work to resolve and rationalize the diverse and complex social and political situations facing Hong Kong's return to China. Before the handover, he said he was "born at the right time, and lived through the right moments in history," exuding a strong sense of mission and pride in his efforts.

In his 14 years of work in Hong Kong, he cared deeply about and paid a lot of attention to the relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland. He pointed out that Hong Kong is full of energy and vitality, commanding numerous advantages and strengths in many areas that Mainland cities do not have, such as status as a centre of international finance, trade, shipping and information. He

believes that Hong Kong also has the potential to develop its high-tech industry. How to take advantage of China's reform policies, so as to achieve a win-win situation for Hong Kong and the Mainland and integrate both into a common prosperous entity, is the question for the future of Hong Kong since its return to China.

In 1998, Professor Zhang returned to work for his alma mater, Zhejiang University, making great efforts to integrate and merge the four universities around the Hangzhou area into the new Zhejiang University of today. He believes that an outstanding university should be comprehensive, research-oriented and innovative in nature. His educational philosophy hinges on raising the university's academic standing, and on developing the overall quality of the students' moral, intellectual, political and aesthetic attributes, for the noble purpose of training and nurturing generations of talent.

He also believes that the quality of students can be seen in their sense of purpose and mission, strong character, a broad-base of knowledge, outstanding abilities, pragmatic work attitude and good health. To put his philosophy into practice, he believes that the Government should invest generously in higher education to improve the environment for teaching and learning, to adopt new and innovative methods of teaching and to combine science and technology with humanistic training. He encourages students to take part in the university's administration and development, and through democratic participation, to play an active part in educational reform. At the same time, he nurtures the students' social and community spirit, and their sense of democratic participation. He once told representatives of the Zhejiang University Students' Union: "In the area of university administration, students, as masters of their destiny, should voice their opinions and suggestions. The University will look into the various suggestions from the students, putting them into different categories for the relevant departments to follow up."

During the run up to Hong Kong's return to China and while developing the new Zhejiang University, Professor Zhang faced certain difficult situations, but he had always stood by his principles. Through meticulous and practical work, he reached his goals, making significant contributions to the future of China.

Mr Chairman, now I present to you Professor Zhang Junsheng for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.