

Honorary Fellow Dr Yip Kit-chuen

Citation written and delivered by Professor Yan Hong

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Dr Yip Kit-chuen, Chairman of G. E. W. International Corporation Limited, arrived in Hong Kong from his hometown Ningbo at the young age of 13 to be apprenticed to a machinery workshop. Ten years later, he bought a second-hand lathe with which he set up his own company specialising in making machine moulds and parts. The electronic industry was picking up pace during the 1960s but Dr Yip's business was barely taking off. It would take many more years of hard work before he became the prominent industrial and entrepreneurial figure he is today. In the decades that followed, in response to the changing economy in Hong Kong, Dr Yip gradually moved from making electric appliances for clients to manufacturing products of his own design, most notably toasters and coffee-making tools. These products are marketed with great success under the brand name Welhome and Welhome Professional Machine. The ingenious designs have received high praise from domestic and commercial users.

Today, Dr Yip is well-known not only for his spectacular industry and entrepreneurial achievements, but also for his extensive philanthropic work. Motivated by his gratitude to society, he has given generously to an array of charitable courses, most notably education, which he firmly believes will enable the younger generation to grow robustly and become equipped for future challenges. Today, in practically every township in Ningbo, there is a school set up with Dr Yip's generosity. His largesse extends to the higher education sector, with many handsome contributions to creating scholarships and improving educational infrastructure and hardware. Among the beneficiaries of his munificence are a number of prestigious schools and universities in Hong Kong and on the mainland, including City University of Hong Kong (CityU) where he is an Honorary Patron of the CityU Foundation. In 2018, the University named Hall 8 of the Student Residence as the Yip Yuen Yuk Hing Hall in honour of his wife and in recognition of the couple's support.

For his spectacular accomplishments in Hong Kong's industrial sector and contributions to the well-being of society, Dr Yip has been widely recognised. He received the World Outstanding Chinese Award in 2006 and Industrialist of the Year Award in 2017. He is the current Honorary President of the Hong Kong Electrical Appliance Industries Association, Honorary General Committee Member of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Director of the Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre, and President of The Sage of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries. He is similarly recognised in mainland China where he was awarded Honorary Citizenship in Dongguan in 2001 and Ningbo in 2002 and received the Medal of Model Compatriot in Zhejiang Province in 2007.

Dr Yip understands from the vicissitudes in his own life how a lack of schooling can hold a person back, which is why he hopes that young people can be spared unnecessary detours. He identifies with CityU's educational goals, knowing fully well that CityU students will be trained to be farsighted for social advancement. They are given the opportunity to develop their potential and understand their ability and inclinations, acquiring the tenacity that prevents them from swaying in the wind but sustains them through difficulties.

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President, Dr Yip Kit-chuen started as a machinery apprentice after his arrival in Hong Kong. Through dedication and a tireless pursuit for innovation, he has reached the pinnacle of the industrial sector in Hong Kong. After much hardship, he is fully aware that success comes from a convergence of personal effort and opportunity. He will continue to repay society through his unwavering support for education. I present him to you for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of City University of Hong Kong.