

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) will confer honorary doctorates on four distinguished educators in recognition of their contribution to education for Hong Kong.

They are Professor Xu Jialu, Professor Ference Marton, Dr. Chung Chi-yung and Dr. Henry Hu Hung-lick.

The conferment will take place at the Institute's 13th Graduation Ceremony to be held on 16 November 2007 (Friday) at the HKIEd Tai Po campus.

### **Renowned linguist contributes to promoting Chinese language, culture and education**

#### **Professor Xu Jialu** ~ Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Renowned linguist Professor Xu Jialu is currently Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. For many years, Professor Xu has played an active role in promoting the internationalisation of hanyu (漢語), and developing the Chinese language and the Chinese culture among foreigners. He also attached great importance to the education of environmental protection issues in the Mainland, realised in his participation in the amendment of the "Compulsory Education Law" implemented last year. He is also active in promoting a fair chance of education for all children of school age in the Mainland. Professor Xu made enormous contribution to Hong Kong's education, especially in the development of Putonghua training.

In 1995, The Hong Kong Institute of Education organised a short-term Putonghua immersion programme in Beijing. The students and staff from HKIEd were the first batch of Hong Kong participants in similar programmes in the Mainland. The receiving academic unit was the State Language Work Committee, headed at that time by Professor Xu. With the support of Professor Xu, HKIEd signed a collaborative agreement with the Committee in 1997 to establish the HKIEd Putonghua Training and Testing Centre (PTTC), which helped to improve the quality of Putonghua teacher training.

Professor Xu graduated from the Beijing Normal University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Chinese Language and Literature study in 1959. He served in various teaching and administrative capacities at his alma mater for about four decades. He was Vice President and Professor from 1987 to 1994. At the same time, he was a Standing Committee member of the China Association for Promoting Democracy (CAPD) Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Beijing Municipal Committee, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and President of the Chinese Society for Exegetical Studies of Classical Chinese Literature. He was appointed as Chairman of the State Language Work Committee from 1997 to 2000. He was the Vice Chairman of CAPD Central Committee from 1994 and Chairman since 1997. He has been a Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress since 1998.

### **Leading educational psychologist influences on learning studies**

#### **Professor Ference Marton** ~ Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*

Professor Ference Marton is a distinguished educational psychologist. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of Göteborg, and Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Education in the University of Hong Kong. One of his important contributions to educational research is to explore the teacher's impact on student learning. His research teams found dramatic differences in what the students learned in different classes, and related the findings to how the teachers structured the content of the lesson.

He was an Advisory Professor at the Hong Kong Institute of Education from 2004 to 2006. His work on Learning Studies has been highly instrumental in shaping the successful work of the Centre for Learning-study and School Partnership (CLASP) at HKIEd. He has played a significant role in the development of this field of research in Hong Kong through his publications and his mentoring of colleagues. Through collaboration with CLASP, over 270 schools, thousands of teachers and their students have directly benefited from Learning Study projects.

Professor Marton was born in Hungary and moved to Sweden when he was 17 years old. He obtained his B.A. in 1964, PhD in 1967, and D. Sc in 1970 at the University of Göteborg. He was Professor of Education in the Department of Education and Educational Research from 1977 to 2006, and has since been Professor Emeritus of the University of Göteborg.

He has successfully supervised the research work of nearly 50 PhD students, 10 of whom later became chair professors. He is the author of over 200 research publications. His pioneering work in Phenomenography and the Variation Theory of Learning has produced over 150 PhD theses, and 1500 publications based on its research methodology.

### **Founders of the first private university in Hong Kong**

#### **Dr. Chung Chi-yung and Dr. Henry Hu Hung-lick**

**~ Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

With years of matchless stamina and persistence, Dr. Chung Chi-yung and Dr. Henry Hu Hung-lick led the Hong Kong Shue Yan College to become the first private university in Hong Kong.

Dr. Chung and Dr. Hu acquainted with each other in turbulent years in the 40s. After their marriage they moved to France where they obtained their Doctor of Law degrees. Dr. Hu qualified as a barrister in England before settling down in Hong Kong in 1955. Dr. Chung taught at the United College, Chu Hai College and Baptist College for several years. From 1967 to 1971, she served as the Head of Department of Sociology and Social Work, and Dean of Faculty of Arts at the then Baptist College. Concurrent to practising law, Dr. Hu was a Legislative Councillor. He was also an elected member of the Urban Council and became its Vice Chairman in the 1970s.

Seeing an acute shortage of college places for high school students who aspired for university education, they developed the idea of setting up an independent liberal arts college in the spring of 1971, for the benefit of the younger generation and also in the interests of society. Hong Kong Shue Yan College was founded in July 1971 after the couple had spent most of their savings in its establishment. Dr. Hu and Dr. Chung held the respective posts of supervisor and principal. Years of hard work borne fruit last year, when approval was given by the Chief Executive in Council for Hong Kong Shue Yan College to change its title to "Hong Kong Shue Yan University". The emergence of the first private university of Hong Kong marks an important milestone in the local higher education landscape.

(Please click the photo to get a higher resolution image)



Professor Xu Jialu



Professor Ference Marton



Dr Henry Hu Hung-lick



Dr Chung Chi-yung

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