

**Citation for**  
**Professor Edward Chen Kwan-yiu**  
**Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my honour to present Professor Edward Chen Kwan-yiu for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*. A well-loved university educator and administrator, Professor Chen has enjoyed an illustrious career in teaching and is widely credited as a pioneer in adopting the liberal arts model in Hong Kong and with leading Lingnan College's smooth transition to university status. Aside from the education sector, he has helped drive social progress and advance Hong Kong's economy through various capacities in decision-making bodies of the government including the Executive Council. Internationally, he is an esteemed economist who has generously contributed his valuable expertise to academia and multilateral organisations.

Born to a grass-roots family, he was raised by a single parent since the age of 12. Aware that education is a vehicle for social mobility, he channelled his energies into his schooling and education. Through dedication and hard work, he gained admission to the elite schools, Queen's College for secondary education, and later to The University of Hong Kong (HKU) where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. Later, Professor Chen earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics at Oxford University. It was there that he demonstrated his extraordinary foresight and intellectual acuity through his thesis which correctly predicted and explained the spectacular growth of the four Asian Dragons. Since then, his scholarly interest has focused on Asian economic development, in particular the positive effect of foreign investment and technological change.

An exemplary academic, Professor Chen's two-plus-decade career in teaching at HKU embodied the essence of the quote "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." He was not content with simply increasing his own knowledge through research and scholarly pursuit; he delighted in sharing his knowledge, and more significantly, in nurturing his students' personal growth and kindling their passion for learning. Indeed, many of his former students have become movers and shakers in society. A group of his students from the early 1970s, including our Chairman of the Council Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang, expressed their gratitude for his inspiring mentorship by establishing the Edward K Y Chen Distinguished Lecture Series which has been held annually since 2007. In recognition of his scholarly brilliance, HKU appointed him Director of the Centre of Asian Studies in 1979 and Chair Professor in 1986.

His genuine interest in students' academic and personal development found a new outlet when he took office as President of Lingnan College. Professor Chen began placing an emphasis on teaching and learning and further developed and refined the curriculum. To create a residential and student-centred educational community, a distinctive feature of the liberal arts education model, Professor Chen encouraged close teacher-student relationship and made hostel residency compulsory. He earned the moniker of "father of liberal arts" for his enthusiastic efforts to champion the liberal arts model which was at that time seldom adopted outside the United States. He also oversaw major campus improvement works and more notably the College's successful transition to university status. Despite the demands of the challenging role and the heavy administrative responsibilities, he insisted on teaching a course each semester during his 12 year-tenure as President and meeting all students over breakfast in small groups as he has always regarded his most significant role as teacher and researcher. He finds it highly satisfying to see students grow and succeed. In his spare time, Professor Chen is a student of horology and a keen collector of watches. He regards watches as a symbol of liberal arts, combining sophisticated mechanical movements with artistic designs.

Committed to the pursuit of knowledge, Professor Chen has published over 100 articles in books and international academic journals on a wide range of subjects on economic development. Currently, Professor Chen serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of HKU SPACE (School of Professional and Continuing Education), Chairman of the Centennial College Council, and Distinguished Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (incorporating the Centre of Asian Studies) at HKU. He has held visiting appointments at Yale and Oxford, as well as Stockholm University and the University of California (Davis Campus). He is also Honorary Professor at several universities in Hong Kong and the Mainland. From 2014 to 2017, he was President of the Qianhai Institute for Innovative Research in Shenzhen, tasked with setting up a modern think tank based on market orientation and international openness. He also served on the Time Magazine Board of Economists and was a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar.

Outside of academia, Professor Chen has lent his expertise and extensive experience to both public and commercial sectors. He served as a member of the Basic Law Consultative Committee from 1985 to 1990, a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong from 1991 to 1992, and a member of the Executive Council of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1997 during the crucial period of Sino-British negotiations over the future of Hong Kong. In addition, while he was Chairman of the Consumer Council from 1991 to 1997, Professor Chen laid the foundation for Hong Kong's competition policy and the subsequent Competition Ordinance that came into force in 2015. More recently, he has given speeches and chaired roundtable discussions on the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area development.

Professor Chen has made myriad contributions through serving the community. Currently, he is President and former Chairman of Hong Kong Society for the Aged, and was Chairman of the Veterinary Surgeons Board, the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the Press Council. Professor Chen serves as Chairman of the Council of Advisors of the Hong Kong Institute for Monetary Research of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and he is a member of the Human Resources Planning Commission. In the commercial sector, Professor Chen was a director of numerous companies including Mass Transit Railway Corporation, Peoples Telephone Company, Asia Satellite Telecommunications Holdings, and is now an independent non-executive director of First Pacific Company, Wharf Holdings, Delta-Asia Financial Group, and Hang Seng Qianhai Asset Management Company.

In recognition of his exemplary contribution to the education sector and his dedicated public service, Professor Chen was appointed Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1993, made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in 1995, and awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in 2003. He was also awarded honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Hong Kong, the Open University of Hong Kong, and Plymouth University in the UK.

Mr Chairman, Professor Chen is a pioneer in studies on Asia's newly industrialised economies and a torchbearer of the liberal arts model and competition policy in Hong Kong. A well-respected expert and visionary leader, he has made a significant impact on the development of economies, society, higher education and the next generation. It is my pleasure and privilege to present Professor Edward Chen Kwan-yiu, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

**Citation for**  
**Professor Christopher Day**  
**Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my great honour to present Professor Christopher Day for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*. An esteemed scholar, Professor Day has significantly advanced teacher education and promoted educational change around the world. He is currently Emeritus Professor of Education at the University of Nottingham, UK, where he is Convenor of the Centre for Research on Educational Leadership and Management. Professor Day has played a valuable role in research and other projects at the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), and since 2013, he has served as Senior Research Fellow at The Joseph Lau Luen Hung Charitable Trust Asia Pacific Centre for Leadership and Change of EdUHK.

In his formative adolescent years, he encountered secondary school teachers who were more concerned with control than creativity and more interested in their subject than their pupils. Yet, it was during this alienating school experience that he also met teachers who were passionately interested in enthusing their pupils with a love for learning, who noticed when something was amiss with individuals and acted upon it, and who were intent on ensuring to the best of their ability that they communicated in ways that connected with the students' interests and needs.

It was those teachers, and others after them, who taught him the value of reflection, who showed him new worlds and motivated him to explore them. These teachers were not charismatic. One had a permanent stutter, another would appear impossibly vague in today's world of target setting, and another was a pedagogic despot in the classroom. Yet, each showed by their actions a deep and sustained care for each one of their charges, and, as Professor Day later came to realise, a passion for and understanding of their work that went far beyond the implementation of set curricula and assessment of measurable achievement. These teachers loved to teach, and cared deeply for all those whom they taught. They ignited his passion for teaching and planted in him the desire to enable all students to experience teachers who always teach to their best and who combine care and high expectations for achievement with an unrelenting focus on the student as person and learner. When he finished school, he knew that all he ever wanted to do was to teach.

As his career progressed, Professor Day's interest in teacher quality and school leadership grew and his passion for the teaching profession took new forms. His familiarity with the practical side of teaching from his years of frontline experience infuses his talks and writings with a sensitivity to the problems and challenges facing those in the profession. By successfully combining his wealth of experience in teacher education and vast knowledge of respective research literature in his research and teaching, Professor Day has enhanced understanding of how schools, school networks and universities can provide support for educators' long-term professional development, wellbeing and effectiveness.

A committed researcher, Professor Day has led and continues to lead research and development projects in Europe, North and South America, China, and Australasia. Notable projects include a national four-year study on variations in teachers' work, lives and effectiveness across 100 UK primary and secondary schools, a collaborative project in Brazil on school principal effectiveness and a project on the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Curriculum. Professor Day was also the principal investigator of a national study that looks at associations between effective principalship and student outcomes, a research that investigates school leadership for change and pupil outcomes in disadvantaged

urban communities, and an interdisciplinary seminar series on teacher resilience. He was also co-investigator in a bi-lateral project on How Schools in Hong Kong and the UK mediate Government Reforms.

Professor Day is an internationally recognised expert on teachers' professional development as demonstrated in his latest book *Teachers' Worlds and Work: Understanding Complexity, Building Quality*. His books are considered required reading, not only for students who are preparing to become teachers, but also those responsible for managing teachers and running training organisations as well as government officials who are involved in policymaking. His books, *Resilient Teachers, Resilient Schools* (2014), *The New Lives of Teachers* (2010) and *A Passion for Teaching* (2003), among others, have been published in several languages. A prolific writer, Professor Day has also authored an impressive number of high-quality journal papers and book chapters. In 2017, he received The William J. Davis Award for writing that year's most outstanding article in *Education Administration Quarterly*, the world's most prestigious publication in educational administration. Professor Day is also Editor-in-Chief of *Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice* and a member of various editorial boards.

Amid growing emphasis on outcome-based, achievement-oriented training, Professor Day has put forward a holistic view of teacher development. More importantly, he has provided evidence-based recommendations that take into account different school settings, contexts and cultures. His insights are highly valued by governments around the world and he has been invited to act as an adviser in Europe and South America. He is currently directing the International Successful School Principalship Project, a research network of 25 countries which he founded.

Professor Day has always been generous in sharing his vast knowledge, in whichever capacity it is made, whether as a teacher, lecturer, local authority adviser, researcher, author, consultant, PhD supervisor or simply as a friend and peer. The Faculty of Education and Human Development at EdUHK has benefitted immensely from his valuable guidance on conducting research, writing publications as well as preparing submissions for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) under the University Grants Committee. We value his dedication which can be seen from the unfailing high standards he sets for himself and others. His commendable efforts and willingness to go out of his way to support colleagues, especially those starting their careers, make him a role model worth emulating.

Borrowing the titles of his famous book and journal paper, Professor Day, who has *A Passion for Teaching*, clearly demonstrates that *The Most Effective Teachers Are In A Class Of Their Own*.

In recognition of his accomplishments and contributions, Professor Day was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Linköping, Sweden in 1993. Then, in 2010 he received the Michael Huberman Award from the American Educational Research Association and a Doctor of Letters from the University of Nottingham. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the UK. Professor Day is also a Professor of Educational Leadership at University of Sydney, Australia; Chair Professor of Educational Leadership, Beijing Normal University, China; Adjunct Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and Visiting Professor at several other universities around the world.

Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure and privilege to present Professor Christopher Day, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.

**Citation for**  
**Mr Lam Woon-kwong**  
**Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my great honour to present Mr Lam Woon-kwong for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. A distinguished and highly regarded government official, Mr Lam has devoted his life's work to serving the people of Hong Kong. Through multiple important public service roles, he has contributed significantly to policies which laid the groundwork for Asia's World City and supported Hong Kong's continued development.

A working-class youth growing up during Hong Kong's tumultuous years, the young Lam Woon-kwong noticed small signs that Hong Kong was about to undergo great changes. Indeed, plans were afoot that would lay the foundation for the city's sustainable development. What he could not foresee was that he would soon play a role in carrying out some of those reforms, and in time would become a well-respected policymaker.

It was in fact the policy shift introduced in the early 1970s that opened the door for Mr Lam's civil service career. After he graduated from The University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Economics and Sociology, he applied for the administrative officer (AO) stream which had previously been closed to local applicants. Mr Lam became one of less than 20 people recruited that year, and a member of one of the earliest cohorts of local administrative officers.

His first job was in the District Office of Tsuen Wan, an area earmarked for development as a new town so squatter settlements had to make way for public housing and infrastructure works. His social sciences training had taught him the value of common sense and this tough role hammered home the importance of getting to know the problems facing real people. He believes that visions should not be set beyond what people can take and when dealing with broad issues there is a need to also pay attention to the small things. These principles would go on to guide his decades-long career.

His next roles across different government functions were no less challenging. Epitomising the Hong Kong spirit, Mr Lam met each task with a can-do attitude and applied his resourcefulness. His versatility and broad knowledge were already evident very early on in his career when he helped set up the Environmental Protection Unit. It was truly a trailblazing effort especially since there was little environmental awareness in the late 1970s. It was the first government agency of its kind, and the forerunner of the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department.

Mr Lam quickly rose to secretary-level rank before 1997. He subsequently served as a Principal Official and Official under the accountability system in the HKSAR Government and from 2000 to 2002, he was Secretary for Home Affairs. He was later tasked with overseeing and ensuring the equestrian events of the Beijing Olympic Games would run smoothly, especially in light of the short preparation time. He also served as advisor to the Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre when it was established in 2006.

Widely seen as a man of the people, Mr Lam earned praise for his work while serving as Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission from 2010 to 2013. His genuine concern and humility has endeared him to many. A public opinion poll found Mr Lam the most popular non-official member of the Executive Council. Mr Lam held multiple roles, linked by a common thread. His biggest wish has always been to set the foundations for solving large, long established social problems, a sentiment he expressed when asked about his motivation behind joining the Executive Council.

From his perspective as a seasoned minister, education should be one of the top policy priorities of any government, and his career has been interlinked with education. His first connection was in the early 1990s when he was a senior deputy in the then Education and Manpower Branch. To deliver on the pledge of expanding and upgrading the tertiary education sector before 1997, Mr Lam oversaw and managed the consolidation of Colleges of Education which led to the creation of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the predecessor of The Education University of Hong Kong. Mr Lam, who also had a hand in building our campus, expressed his happiness on seeing the Institute gain university status when he congratulated its former President Professor Anthony Cheung, who happens to be his college mate whom he met nearly half a century ago.

Education is not merely a policy priority for Mr Lam. His quiet wish is to have a frontline job in education. This was realised in 1995 when he took office as Director of Education. Without wasting one moment, he put into practice the advice he gives his mentees—he met the staff and students on the ground through visits to over 70 schools. Just when he was securing the trust and faith of school principals, he had to take on the role of Secretary for the Civil Service to ensure a smooth transition when Hong Kong returned to China. In a serendipitous coincidence, he soon had another brush with education when he was Director of the Office of the Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa who introduced the 3-3-4 education reform.

Mr Lam believes teachers are the most important resource in the education field. He credits his unconventional secondary school teacher with instilling a lifelong love for learning, as well as movies and culture. He relished the chance to study at Oxford University in the UK and then at Harvard University in the US where he got his Master in Public Administration. He also obtained a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies from HKU. Since 2012, Mr Lam has been a regular newspaper commentator on a wide range of topics, from education to world history and politics. His wisdom, knowledge and eloquence have also been demonstrated in his speeches at a great number of local universities, colleges and secondary schools. He was also a Board Member of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. Currently, Mr Lam serves as College-wide Adjunct Professor of Hang Seng Management College which was recently granted university status.

In recognition of his dedicated and distinguished service rendered to the Hong Kong community, Mr Lam received a Gold Bauhinia Star in 2000, the Chief Executive's Commendation for Community Service Award in 2009, and was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2005.

Mr Chairman, Mr Lam's dedicated service to Hong Kong is truly deserving of praise. He has contributed significantly to improving the lives of Hong Kong people. It is my great pleasure and privilege to present Mr Lam Woon-kwong, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

**Citation for**  
**Dr Pang Yiu-kai**  
**Doctor of Education, *honoris causa***

Chancellor,

It is my great honour to present Dr Pang Yiu-kai for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. An esteemed business leader and an outstanding role model firmly committed to public service, Dr Pang has contributed significantly to all areas of Hong Kong society, from enterprise and industry, government and community, to education and health.

Business leaders are often praised for supporting education through sharing their expertise, providing mentorship or engaging in philanthropy, but rarely is the level of commitment and active participation exhibited by Dr Pang seen. His 15 years of exemplary service on the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Education saw the Institute grow from strength to strength, successfully attaining university title as The Education University of Hong Kong in 2016. It is reasonable to say that he adopted the approaches characteristic of his own personal success story, such as taking a long-term view, looking for the next big challenge and hard work, to carry the Institute forward on its transformative journey.

Dr Pang embarked on the Jardine Executive Trainee Scheme after he graduated from the University of Nottingham with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Business Administration Degree from The University of Edinburgh. His hard work and can-do attitude in taking on ever bigger tasks were rewarded with his meteoric rise through the company. When he was just 29 years old, he became Chief Executive of Pizza Hut, a household name in Hong Kong. In 1999, perceptive people recognised that this rising star was beginning his ascent. That year, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Zung Fu, the exclusive dealer of Mercedes-Benz, and he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons in Hong Kong for his professional accomplishments and notable contribution to society. Within a few years, he was promoted to Executive Chairman of the motor car business. He candidly admits that he didn't know much about the industry when he started but Dr Pang never shies away from a challenge. When he entered the motor business, the proportion of Mercedes-Benz cars in Hong Kong imported as parallel goods was 49 per cent, which dented company sales; today it is down to less than one per cent while sales at Zung Fu has tripled through winning customers' trust and providing excellent services.

In 2007, he became the first Chinese to become Chief Executive of Hongkong Land, which is one of the top 25 property companies globally. In 2016, Dr Pang was appointed Deputy Managing Director of Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Dairy Farm International Holdings Limited, Hongkong Land and Mandarin Oriental International Limited, among other Jardine group operations. A corporate manager by profession, Dr Pang believes a good leader sows the seeds for healthy development, himself having benefitted from training and opportunities for growth. In his view, the quality of people determines the success of an organisation. In a city like Hong Kong which lacks natural resources except its deep harbour, only human talent can raise the city's competitiveness, and cultivating talent starts with education. It is therefore easy to understand his passion for advancing education and the reason he accords respect to the teaching profession.

His reverence for teachers took tangible form when he launched the Chief Executive's Award for Teaching Excellence while serving as the first Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Award, but Dr Pang's role in education that he is most celebrated for is his contribution to the transformation process of The Education University of Hong Kong and his generous support to its development. He first joined the Council of the then Hong Kong Institute of Education in 2002 and was appointed as Treasurer in 2005. He became Council Chairman in 2009 and held the post for eight years until 2017. Under his sterling

leadership, the Institute was finally granted university title in 2016 after passing vigorous external reviews.

I had the privilege of working closely with Dr Pang when I served as the fifth president from 2008 to 2012. He was already Chairman of the Council when we launched the Institute's *Strategic Plan, 2009-12 and Beyond* – with the theme “Planning for the Future, Making a Difference”, setting out key milestone targets for the Institute's transformative journey under the “Education-plus” vision. I could still remember how the two of us, side by side, met the media in Central to share with them our bold plans.

Indeed, Dr Pang had devoted a lot of his precious time to steering the development of this University. At the usually long meetings at his Hongkong Land office before every Council meeting, we were all impressed by his enthusiasm and passion, which inspired us in senior management to strive for even more. He was also always ready to join major campus activities including those organised by students (such as the annual banquet), often together with his wife Jeny.

Apart from his contribution to Hong Kong's long-term vibrancy and growth through his efforts as a prominent business leader and his involvement in education, Dr Pang gives generously of his time to serve the community. He was a Member of the Hospital Authority from 2011 to 2017 and has served the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce from 2010 until now in various capacities, including Chairman. He continues to hold a number of public service positions, including: Chairman of the Hospital Governing Committee of Queen Mary Hospital and Tsan Yuk Hospital, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Gifted Education, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Directorate Salaries & Conditions of Service and Chairman of the Employers' Federation of Hong Kong. Dr Pang is also a Vice Patron of the Community Chest of Hong Kong.

In recognition of his extensive and remarkable service to the community and support to charities, he was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2001 and awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2008 and the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2016. The University of Edinburgh, where he completed his Master of Business Administration Degree, also conferred an Honorary Doctorate Degree upon him.

Chancellor, Dr Pang is truly an outstanding individual, highly respected for his accomplishments, willpower, and generosity. His dedication to The Education University of Hong Kong is most impressive. He is forever a friend and a pillar of the University. It is my great pleasure and privilege to present Dr Pang Yiu-kai, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.



**Citation for**  
**Mr Joseph C Tsai**  
**Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa***

Mr Chairman,

It is my great honour to present Mr Joseph C Tsai for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*. A distinguished business leader and a notable philanthropist, Mr Tsai has helped transform industry, enhanced business operations, made a significant contribution to education, nurtured youths and helped changed the way consumers purchase and use technology in his capacity as co-founder of Alibaba Group, the global e-commerce company we all know.

Mr Tsai was born into a family of prominent lawyers. His grandfather Ruchin Tsar and father Paul Tsai, natives of Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, established Tsar & Tsai, the first partnership law firm in Taiwan. It has been serving international clients since 1965.

When he hit his teen years, he left Taiwan to study in the United States. After he completed high school at The Lawrenceville School, he followed in the family footsteps and pursued further studies at Yale, where his father, Mr Paul Tsai, became the first-ever graduate student from Taiwan to receive a Juris Doctor degree. At Yale College, the younger Tsai attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and East Asian Studies and later earned a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School.

A member of the New York State Bar, Mr Tsai is qualified to practise law in the State of New York where he began his career as a tax attorney at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. His next career move into private equity would prove to be pivotal in his career, and arguably, in the field of e-commerce. He served as General Counsel at New York private equity firm Rosecliff, Inc. before moving to Hong Kong and working for Investor AB, the holding company of Sweden's Wallenberg family, focusing on Asian private equity investments.

Through a chance encounter, he met Mr Jack Ma, who was at the time still busy trying to gain business interest in his idea. With clarity of thought, Mr Tsai looked beyond what was in front of his eyes, which was a rudimentary online platform. Instead, he observed the energy and dedication of the people brought together by Mr Ma. He saw Mr Ma's ability to lead and grow a business.

In 1999, Mr Tsai quit his job at Investor AB and joined Mr Ma at then early-stage start-up Alibaba as one of its 18 founders. He served as Chief Financial Officer for more than a decade before becoming the company's Executive Vice Chairman in 2013. He has served on the board of directors of Alibaba since the inception of the company.

Utilising his legal and investment-management knowledge and expertise, Mr Tsai helped arrange a series of transactions that turned the startup into an e-commerce powerhouse. He oversaw the most significant strategic transactions at Alibaba, including early financings from Goldman Sachs and SoftBank; the establishment of Taobao; investment by Yahoo!, Inc.; the listing and subsequent privatisation of the company's B2B business on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange; the \$7.6 billion share repurchase from Yahoo! and related financings; the restructuring of Alipay and formation of Ant Financial; the \$25 billion IPO of Alibaba Group on the New York Stock Exchange, the world's largest IPO in history; and more recently, investments in or acquisitions of online video company Youku, the Group's healthcare vehicle Alibaba Health, logistics information company Cainiao and local services companies Koubei and Ele.me.

Mr Tsai is also highly involved in the group's support to startup communities. A director of the Alibaba Entrepreneurs Fund, a not-for-profit initiative set up in 2015, Mr Tsai believes that fostering an entrepreneurial spirit among the young is crucial, as we live in a disruptive environment. To thrive, he

considers it important to take a positive approach to our rapidly changing world by embracing change and solving problems. Rather than competing in a static market, innovative solutions can lead to cost savings and create new markets, providing a win-win situation.

Overseas, Mr Tsai has generously supported the advancement of education, the main focus of his philanthropic initiatives. Giving back to society is a value that runs deep in the family. Through the Joe & Clara Tsai Foundation, he and his wife made donations to The Lawrenceville School to support its financial aid programme and athletic/dining facilities. The Foundation also provided the founding gift to establish the Wu Tsai Neuroscience Institute at Stanford University, as well as the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale (“Tsai CITY”), a university-wide project that aims to inspire students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to solve real-world problems. To honour his father and to expand upon the philanthropic initiatives that his father put in place at Yale Law School, Mr Tsai donated to the school to support the continuing work of its China Center, which has been renamed the Paul Tsai China Center.

Mr Tsai recently extended his philanthropic activities to mainland China by establishing the Joe Tsai Foundation in his ancestral hometown in Zhejiang Province to focus on education of students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. With its vision of “One Job Opportunity Lifts the Entire Family Out of Poverty,” the foundation provides financial aid on an annual basis for 100 high school students in Nanxun District and 100 university students in the city of Huzhou in Zhejiang Province, as well as vocational training and scholarship funds for underprivileged students in Hebei, Shanxi and Sichuan Provinces.

Health and sports also hold a significant place in his heart. An ardent sports fan and lacrosse player, Mr Tsai is committed to advancing and promoting sports, in particular basketball and lacrosse, both of which require quick thinking, precision and teamwork, skills valued by Mr Tsai in business. Mr Tsai, who was awarded the San Diego franchise of the National Lacrosse League and secured a major stake in National Basketball Association (NBA) franchise the Brooklyn Nets last year, hopes that awareness and participation in these action-packed sports will grow in Asia. In his newly appointed role as a member of the Board of Directors of NBA China, Mr Tsai will place more efforts into promoting basketball in China.

Mr Chairman, Mr Tsai is an outstanding entrepreneur who has made an exceptional contribution to industry and society, in Hong Kong and beyond. It is my great pleasure and privilege to present Mr Joseph C Tsai, and request that you confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.