

## Citation

Dr Leung Chun-ying was Chairman of the Council of Lingnan University from 1999 to October 2008. During his tenure, Dr Leung made invaluable contributions to the University, including the development of new facilities, appointment of the new President, and even a suggestion to plant lychee trees on campus to give a touch of "Lingnan character" to the University. For years, Dr Leung endeavoured to bring more resources to the University, benefiting new generations of Lingnanians.

Dr Leung was born in Hong Kong in 1954. After graduating from King's College, he studied in the Department of Construction and Surveying at Hong Kong Polytechnic. In 1974, he went to the UK and studied at Bristol Polytechnic. He formed the Chinese Schoolmates Club and organised Chinese classes for children of Chinese immigrants in the UK. He returned to Hong Kong upon graduation in 1977, and joined Jones Lang Wootton as a surveyor trainee.

1978 was a transitional point for contemporary China, awaiting modernisation and reform. Though he had returned to Hong Kong for only a year, together with other professionals enthusiastic about the economic development of China, Dr Leung was invited to join study tours to the Mainland to give lectures on market economics for the sake of facilitating China's reform and modernization. In 1988, China amended her Constitution to consolidate the system of land use rights. Dr Leung assisted in the formulation of the legal framework in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, in order to make land sales fair, open and honest. He also drafted the tenders in Chinese and English for the first land sales in Shanghai and Shenzhen. He who took part in the effort shared the joy of fruition.

Dr Leung has been successful in his career development. He established C. Y. Leung & Company, Ltd. in 1993, and is currently Chairman (Asia Pacific) of DTZ Holdings. He has served as President of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and Chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Hong Kong Branch). For years, he has maintained the belief he held when establishing his own firm in 1993 - upholding his commitment to Hong Kong, to clients and to the profession.

Over the years, Dr Leung has been extensively involved in public service. As Secretary-General of the Basic Law Consultative Committee, Leader of the Political Sub-Group of the Preliminary Working Committee of the Preparatory Committee for the

HKSAR under the National People's Congress and Vice Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, he was involved in the full 13-year process of Hong Kong's return to China. Dr Leung was appointed to the Executive Council in 1997, and has been Convenor of the Council since 1999. He is also a member of the National Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chairman of One Country Two Systems Research Institute Ltd., and Chairman of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services. Dr Leung's contributions to the society of Hong Kong have been well recognised by both the public and private sectors. He was elected as one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1988, and awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star in 1999.

In addition to his busy public life, Dr Leung has a special job as the "midnight gardener" of his backyard; this is most likely the best kept secret in the local community. He takes care of the plants no matter how busy he is, at midnight and at dawn. He ploughs the soil, removes weeds and applies fertilisers, proud of a flourishing garden packed with growing flowers and plants. Dr Leung patronises the Farming Scheme of the Produce Green Foundation, presenting his friends or relatives with fresh vegetables. He also loves to explore ecological patterns in our world by observing the ripeness of guavas and mangoes in his garden. He knows that mulberries with honey can soothe a sore throat; he admires beautiful star fruits and a pumpkin of four catties. Dr Leung understands the sound rule "a man reaps what he sows" in daily life. Accordingly, he cherishes professional talent and values education. As former Chairman of the Council of Lingnan University and current Chairman of the Council of City University of Hong Kong, Dr Leung firmly believes in the old adage "It takes three generations to bring up a gentleman".

Voltaire, a French Enlightenment scholar and philosopher, reminds us to "cultivate your own garden first". Dr Leung realises the fundamental importance of self-cultivation and managing the family. From horticultural art to ecological understanding, from respect for all kinds of life to training professionals for our society, he knows that, just like improving the soil conditions for plant growth, the task only seems to be easy and routine. It is challenging and demanding, and there is still a long way to go. Mr. Chancellor, may I present Dr Leung Chun-ying to you for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

*Written and delivered by Professor Leung Ping-kwan*