

**Honorary Fellow – Citation**  
**Ms Chan Yuen-han, SBS, JP**

Ms Chan Yuen-han, SBS, JP, was born in China, and attended Hoi Luk Fung School, San Kiu Middle School and Chack Kwan Middle School. She came from a grass-roots family with five siblings, and as their father died at the age of 40, they could barely scrape by. She started working when she turned 12, but later managed to study part-time for a Higher Diploma jointly organised by Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hong Kong Management Association, and went for a visiting study period at the Philosophy Department of Guangdong Science & Research University. She went to the University of Warwick in 1992 for a master's degree programme in labour studies, but under the traditional Chinese worry of “regretting after one's parents pass away”, she returned to Hong Kong to take care of her mother when the latter fell ill, and was unable to finish the course.

Cultivated by her father at an early age, Ms Chan enjoyed reading, which helped to nurture her black-and-white personality and patriotic sentiments that drove her to know more about her country. After entering the labour force, she gradually felt the unfairness of the social system and the exploitation of workers' rights and interests. She started working in trade unions in 1971, and has never stopped working full time since then. Feeling that joining the political apparatus could help workers even more, she participated in the 1988 District Council direct elections, in the hope of joining deliberations on issues such as public housing, poverty, welfare and the Chun Yeung Street incident. She participated in the Legislative Council elections in 1991, served as a member of the Legislative Council from 1995 to 1997 and as a member of the Provisional Legislative Council from 1997 to 1998. From 1998 to 2008, Ms Chan was an elected member of the HKSAR Legislative Council, once becoming the “queen of votes”. Since 2008, she has retreated from the front line and gone back to trade

union work, serving as Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions. For many years, Ms Chan has been participating in negotiations in labour-management disputes, such as those concerning Da Da Department Store, Yaohan and KPS, with the ultimate goal of fighting for workers' welfare through trade unions. Ms Chan's life is essentially linked to her job.

Ms Chan was diagnosed with cancer more than seven years ago, but continued to work with diligence and perseverance, battling against her illness. Fortunately, she has received enormous support and encouragement from friends and family, which have helped her win the battle. Ms Chan goes hiking with friends at leisure time and experiences "overcoming adversity" first-hand; hiking also relaxes the body and mind, allowing one to further explore nature as well as the meaning of life.

After returning to work for the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, Ms Chan feels even more keenly that there are still over a million people living in poverty in Hong Kong. Hoping to take Tokyo and Seoul as role models and facilitate the development of a pluralistic sub-culture economy, she has discussed various issues with the government such as revitalising commercial buildings, decking Kai Tak River and doing archaeological investigation on Lung Tsun River, in order to create employment opportunities and foster the spirit of environmental protection in heritage conservation.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Ms Chan's distinguished contributions to society, enthusiastic service to the working class and efforts in advancing trade union work over the years, may I now present Ms Chan Yuen-han to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Chinese citation written and delivered by Prof Siu Oi-ling*