

Honorary Fellow – Citation
Mr Gordon William Ewing Jones *BBS*

Mr. Gordon Jones was born in Harrow, UK in 1951. In 1973, he graduated from the University of Oxford with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern History. From the same university, he acquired a Master of Arts degree in 1983.

Mr. Jones joined the Hong Kong Government as an Administrative Officer straight from university in October 1973. In the following decade, he served in a number of key positions in the then Colonial Secretariat, the New Territories Administration, the Environment Branch, the Social Services Branch, the Urban Services Department, and the City and New Territories Administration. When he was the District Officer of the Kowloon City District from 1983 to 1986, he played a key role in planning the clearance and demolition of the Kowloon Walled City in 1986, an operation which he considers to have been one of the best kept secrets of the Hong Kong Government.

From 1986 to 1989, Mr. Jones served as Assistant Financial Secretary in the Finance Branch, where he was head of one of the four divisions responsible for Government expenditure. Having briefly served as Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport in 1990, he joined the then Registrar General's Department later that year as Head of the Companies Division, the first-ever Administrative Officer to fill an operational post in that department. He played a key role in the establishment of the new Companies Registry and became head of the new department on 1 May 1993.

As Registrar of Companies, Mr. Jones was the driving force behind the Companies Registry's modernization and computerization, and was responsible for implementing many initiatives which significantly improved the department's enforcement and public service delivery capability. This culminated with the launching of Phase I of the Integrated Companies Registry Information System in February 2005, which fully computerized the Companies Registry's internal document processing and public search operations. This enabled the department to provide a vitally important public service on a paperless and highly efficient

basis 24 hours a day. Another very significant part of Mr. Jones's responsibilities as Registrar of Companies was legal, corporate governance and regulatory reform. As well as piloting a large number of companies amendment bills through the Legislative Council, he was very heavily involved with the major Overall Review of the Companies Ordinance in 2000 and the Corporate Governance Review in 2001 and 2003 by the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform, and the establishment of the Financial Reporting Council in 2007. His work in company law reform culminated with his taking the lead in initiating and planning the rewrite of the Companies Ordinance, the largest and most complex law reform exercise ever undertaken in Hong Kong, which commenced in 2006. Mr. Jones hopes that the new Companies Bill, which is scheduled to be introduced into the Legislative Council later this year, will go a long way to modernizing Hong Kong's company law and provide a key element in ensuring Hong Kong's future as a major international commercial and financial centre.

As Registrar of Companies, Mr. Jones represented the Financial Secretary on the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants for 14 years. In addition, he developed very close professional links with the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, the Hong Kong Institute of Directors and the Hong Kong Securities Institute. In recognition of his work in the area of company law reform and corporate governance in Hong Kong, Mr. Jones became one of the first Honorary Fellows of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors in 1996, a Fellow of the UK and Hong Kong Institutes of Chartered Secretaries in 2000 and an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Securities Institute in 2007, becoming only the third person to receive such recognition. He retired in 2008 after a career of 34 years in the civil service in Hong Kong, a city which he calls home.

Mr. Chairman, for his remarkable service to the community and his contribution to the major reform of Hong Kong's Company Law and Corporate Governance, may I now present Mr. Gordon William Ewing Jones to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation written and delivered by Dr Lau Chi-pang