

Honorary Fellow – Citation

Mr Shih Wing-ching

Mr Shih Wing-ching, whose ancestral hometown is Ningbo in Zhejiang Province, was born in Shanghai and moved to Hong Kong at an early age. While at school, he was already much concerned about society and people's livelihood, and was suspended from school for participating in labour rights protection movements. After graduating from secondary school, he taught at an evening school for workers for eight consecutive years, helping dropout workers acquire cultural knowledge.

In 1978, Mr Shih set up Centaline Property Agency Limited with his classmates, which has been serving Hong Kong for over thirty years. Centaline was the first company offering consumers property information via the internet and electronic maps, which greatly increased market transparency. To date, Centaline has over 20,000 employees working in 30 cities on the Mainland.

Mr Shih is hardworking, open-minded and uniquely insightful. He follows Laozi's philosophy of managing without intervention, allowing his employees to develop and work on their own ideas. This way, they work happily with high motivation and creativity as well as a sense of responsibility. All his businesses operate in this way, and grow naturally under a self-organized mode.

While engaged in the business sector, Mr Shih still cares about the community. In his spare time, he often hosts radio programmes and writes newspaper columns, commenting on current affairs such as the integration between Mainland China and Hong Kong, personal finance, land policies and management philosophy. Over the years, Mr Shih has published

thousands of articles, which have been collected and published in books welcomed by general readers. He can be veritably called an eloquent pen in the business world of Hong Kong.

Mr Shih established a free newspaper named *am730* in 2005, and shares his own experiences and opinions with readers in a daily column “C View”. *am730* is honest and neutral, becoming a fresh spring among local newspapers. Its daily circulation is currently 380,000 copies, which makes it the fourth most popular newspaper in Hong Kong.

In spite of his tight schedule, Mr Shih still participates actively in public welfare. He has taken part in poverty-fighting and education development programmes by Oxfam Hong Kong and Sowers Action. Apart from donating money, he also serves on Sowers Action’s Council to the Board. In 2008, Mr Shih donated all his shares in Centaline Group to his charitable “Shih Wing-ching Foundation” to support the farming population in Mainland China. Current projects are being undertaken in provinces like Qinghai, Gansu, Yunnan and Sichuan. Mr Shih has also served in various public positions, including as a member of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Advisory Committee, Hospital Governing Committee, Estate Agents Authority and Task Force on Economic Challenges. He is currently a member of the Commission on Strategic Development and Chairman of the Board of Governors of Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and is a Justice of the Peace (JP).

Mr Shih is an extraordinary business talent as well as a philanthropist who has made enormous contributions to Hong Kong and Mainland China over the years. He is a model for Hong Kong leaders. Mr Chairman, may I now present to you Mr Shih Wing-ching for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Chinese citation written and delivered by Dr Lau Chi-pang