

Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION *honoris causa*

Citation

Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung is Chairman of the Board of the Lee & Man Group of Companies. As a great entrepreneur with exceptional business acumen, Mr Lee has built a remarkable career from scratch. Today, the Lee & Man Group has developed into a conglomerate with distinguished performance in a wide range of industries, such as paper and leather bag manufacturing, chemicals, real estate and hotels. Its products are well received not only in China but also in numerous countries in Europe and the Americas.

A native of Hainan Province, Mr Lee moved with his relatives to Hong Kong in 1945, where he received his education and learnt how to run a business from his third uncle. Eager to start his own business, Mr Lee began manufacturing cassette tapes under a new self-made brand, thereby earning his first pot of gold in 1976. When China launched its open door reforms in the late 1970s, Mr Lee felt optimistic about the tremendous opportunities in the Chinese market and the bright prospects of the nation's development. His determination to invest in industries in Dongguan made him one of the first Hong Kong entrepreneurs to operate factories in mainland China.

As an insightful, hard-working and practical industrialist, Mr Lee also demonstrates great vision, shrewdness and vigilance in business. While light industries were flourishing in the Pearl River Delta, Mr Lee envisaged that a large number of private enterprises would enter the market. He concluded that his company would have to engage in more competitive industries with higher entry barriers for further expansion. In 1994, he responded to the rising demand for paper by founding Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing Limited, taking the lead to dip into heavy industries. Today, Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing has become one of the world's leading paper and pulp manufacturers, and has been listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 2003. Under Mr Lee's strong leadership, the Lee & Man Group also achieved remarkable success in the chemical, real estate and hotel businesses.

Highly devoted to his family and the education of his children, Mr Lee makes himself a good role model, and helps his children apprehend the key to success through subtle influence. He does not hesitate to abandon the convention of asking

his children to run the family business, since younger generations may not be interested in continuing what their forefathers have established. Mr Lee's parenting efforts have been well paid off by his children's success in their business careers and devotion to charity. They have made generous donations to support educational causes. For example, Mr Lee's third son Mr Lee Man-bun has donated HK\$27 million to further support Lingnan University's development in liberal arts education.

In addition to his achievements in business, Mr Lee has devoted himself to public and philanthropic services. He has served as the 4th Chairman of the World Federation of Hainan Associations, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Guangdong Province, the 43rd and 44th Chairman of the Hong Kong Hainan Commercial Association, as well as Honorary Chairman of the CEO Club of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong New Territories Commercial & Industrial General Association. Currently Mr Lee is the Honorary Principal of the Qionghai Jiaji Secondary School and Guoxing Secondary School on Hainan Island, responsible for setting the direction of school development. Since 1984, his generous donations to schools in Hainan, Guangdong, Beijing, Guizhou and Hunan as well as to other worthy causes are estimated to have exceeded HK\$100 million; his dedication is well recognised by the authorities and local communities. For his generous contributions, Mr Lee has received the China Charity Award from the Chinese Ministry of Civic Affairs in 2005, and was made an honorary citizen of Dongguan.

Over the years, Mr Lee and his family have given enthusiastic support to education and to Lingnan University to further promote liberal arts education. His emphasis on social responsibility and education sets a great example for society. Mr Chancellor, may I present Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung to you for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*.

Chinese citation written and delivered by Dr Alfred Wong Shiu-ho