Citation for Dr the Hon David K P Li

Your Honour,

In the opinion of Dr the Honourable David K P Li, OBE, JP, Legislative Councillor and Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of The Bank of East Asia, Ltd, education is the single most important infrastructure investment a society can make.

Dr Li himself is a shining example of that fact.

Dr Li’s business career may be said to have been launched at a fortune telling booth at his English public school Open Day. He was telling the fortunes! His second enterprise may be seen as the forerunner of the many profit sharing joint ventures he has subsequently master-minded, and an excellent example of Dr Li’s eye for a market opportunity. While he was at Cambridge University studying for his degree in Economics and Law, he noted that at the end of the summer term, graduating students wanted to get rid of their bicycles, but that there was no market for them until the new undergraduates came up the following October. He therefore provided the capital for a joint venture project with the College porters to buy up the bicycles, refurbish and store them for resale the next term.

Cambridge University in the early 1960s boasted a thriving arts scene, to which Dr Li contributed as a writer of satirical sketches for Footlights and as a composer, musician and singer. The town however did not possess a night club, so Dr Li remedied this by hiring the Corn Exchange as a regular Saturday night club venue in which he played by turn the role of impresario, doorman, treasurer, MC and session musician. The night club was not only a highly popular venue, but also a highly profitable venture for the fledgling entrepreneur.

Dr Li feels that he was very privileged to have experienced the opportunities that Cambridge provided for him and he has since characteristically sought to repay that debt by founding the Hong Kong Friends of Cambridge University and establishing the prestigious Prince Philip Scholarship Scheme, which funds places at Cambridge for Hong Kong students who could not otherwise afford to go there. He is currently trying to set up a similar scheme for promising young scholars from China.

Dr Li’s contribution to education is not restricted to his alma mater however. He is an avid supporter of vocational training and life long learning and has for many years been Chairman of the Executive Committee and Council of the Hong Kong Management Association. He is also Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Council of the University of Hong Kong.

Dr Li recounts with particular pleasure being invited in 1969 to lecture on the then novel topic of management information and information technology for an extra-mural course at the University of Hong Kong which was being organised by his respected friend who is today our President, Professor Edward Chen.

Dr Li was also invited by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University some years ago to be an adviser on management education as well as to lecture on the subjects of banking, finance and computer technology. He has also been an adviser to The Chinese University of Hong Kong and a lecturer on international finance in respect of their MBA programme.

In his work for charity as in his business and public life, Dr Li is motivated by a sense of "fairness", a desire to provide a level playing field so that all citizens may have the opportunity to live with dignity and achieve their potential whatever their social origins. Notable among his wide ranging contributions to charitable causes is his work as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army to which he has devoted over 35 years of service in England and Hong Kong and Chairman of the Executive Committee of St James’ Settlement which he has served for more than 25 years.
He is also a Vice Patron of the Community Chest, with which he has been associated for many years, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience through membership of various committees and in 1984-5 through his chairmanship of the Executive Committee.

Dr Li's decision to join The Bank of East Asia as assistant manager on his return to Hong Kong in 1969 may have been the result of a sense of duty to his family. His success in his chosen career of banking, however, is attributable to his tremendous energy and drive. The Chief Manager of the Bank back in 1969 introduced him to the staff as "having expertise and experience in accounting and computers". He was by then a chartered accountant and lawyer. His first project was to manage the installation within one year of The Bank of East Asia's first on-line real time computer system, which was to revolutionise banking for its customers. In 1981-82, by which time he had become the Bank's Chief Executive, he established JETCO, Hong Kong's first inter-bank network of Automated Teller Machines, which opened the door for local banks to participate on an equal footing in an area which had previously been the exclusive domain of bigger players. It also demonstrated his philosophy that joint ventures and cooperation are just as effective in stimulating progress as cut-throat competition. In his hands, The Bank of East Asia has gone from strength to strength. It was the first bank to reenter China and, in the same spirit of progress through mutual endeavour, has brokered many joint venture projects there.

Dr Li's drive and acumen have made him much sought after both on the international business scene and in the political arena. In an article which appeared in the Hong Kong Standard earlier this year, Dr Li was described as "the most connected man on the Preparatory Committee" on account of his twelve directorships in companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and his seat on the Board of 39 privately listed companies. He serves on the main boards of Dow Jones & Company, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, CBS, the Campbell Soup Company, and on the International Advisory Boards of major corporations such as Avon Products Inc, IBM, Rolls-Royce, Daimler-Benz, the Bank of Montreal and Bank Austria to name but a few.

As well as being a member of the Preparatory Committee, Dr Li is a member of Legco, where he has represented the Banking functional constituency since 1985. He was Vice-chairman of the Basic Law Drafting Committee and is now a Hong Kong advisor and convener of the Investment Committee of the Hong Kong SAR Government Land Fund Trust. Dr Li sees it as the role and duty of his generation to manage the transition through 1997 and beyond. He is deeply committed to Hong Kong and optimistic about the future.

If asked how he manages to sustain the momentum to fulfil all his commitments as scrupulously as he does; always responding to letters immediately even if they arrive during one of the overseas trips which currently take up much of his time, Dr Li replies modestly, listing his blessings: his robust health, his devoted family, his skilled team at the Bank, his worldwide network of friends, the fact that he only needs four hours of sleep a night!

"The world continues to offer glittering prizes to those who have stout hearts and sharp swords" (Earl of Birkenhead) and we are thus of course not the first to honour Dr Li. He has received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Cambridge and Warwick in the UK and from the University of Hong Kong. We are however, extremely proud to welcome Dr Li to the Lingnan family, seeing in him the epitome of our College motto, "Education for Service".

Your Honour, for his personal qualities, for his fearless promotion of justice and equality for all, and for his continuing contribution to the development of the economy of Hong Kong, I present Dr the Honourable David Li Kwok-po for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa.
李國寶博士太平紳士贊詞

代理總督閣下：

李國寶博士太平紳士身兼立法局議員和東亞銀行副主席暨行政總裁，依據李博士的看法，教育是社會基礎設施一項至為重要的投資。

李博士本人正好是這項事實的一個卓越例子。

李博士的營商生涯可以說是從一個占卜攤位開始，那時他在英國的公立學校就讀，學校正好舉行開放日，占卜是其中一項活動，他在攤位內跟人占卜算命呢！李博士的第二項企業，可以視作他其後運籌帷幄經營合資企業項目的先驅，又可視作他對市場機會獨具慧眼的昭卓例證。這第二項企業，是指他在劍橋大學修讀經濟和法律學位時，留意到每當夏季學期結束時，快將畢業的同學就想將腳踏車脫手，但在十月新的一批學子入學前根本沒有市場。李博士覈準機會，提供資金，與所讀學院的門房進行合資計劃，買起那批腳踏車，加以翻新，靜待新學期開始時出售。

六十年代初期，劍橋大學興起藝術浪潮，而李博士大有興波助瀾之功。他既為《舞台評論》撰寫諷刺小品，同時又作曲、演奏和大展歌喉。那時大學城並沒有夜總會，李博士為一補這方面的缺憾，特意租用玉蜀黍交易場作爲固定的周末聚會場所，他自己就輪流擔任經理人、門房、司庫、司儀和樂師。那夜總會不單深受歡迎，還為我們這一位羽翼未豐的企業家帶來豐厚利潤。

李博士十分珍惜劍橋的歲月，認爲是難能可貴的經歷，因而特意致力予以回報。他創辦了「香港劍橋大學之友社」，又建立著名的「菲臘親王奬學金計劃」，資助經濟能力不足的香港學生前往劍橋修讀學位。李博士現正設法為有潛質的中國年青學子創辦同類計劃。

但李博士對教育的貢獻並不侷限於母校。他熱心支持職業訓練和終身進修教育，多年來出任香港專業管理協會理事會及執行委員會主席。他又是香港大學校務委員會副主席暨司庫。

李博士一件愉快的往事，就是在一九六九年受邀在香港大學校外課程部講授當時頗爲新穎的科目：「管理資訊和資訊科技」，而統籌該學科的是他一位尊敬的朋友，也就是現在我們學院的校長陳坤耀教授。

數年前，李博士亦應香港理工大學邀請，擔任管理學課程的顧問，同時執教有關銀行、財務和電腦科技等學科。他也曾獲香港中文大學委聘爲顧問，並講授「工商管理碩士課程」的國際財務學科。

跟從事商務和公職生涯一樣，李博士深感「公平」原則的重要，並受這理念的驅策而積極投入慈善工作；他亟望可以建設一個公平的社會，讓不同社會背景的市民可以享有尊嚴的生活，和有機會發揮自己的潛能。李博士在慈善事業方面的貢獻良多，最彰顯的是出任救世軍諮詢委員會主席和聖雅各福群會執行委員會主席。救世軍的工作跨越英國和香港兩地，服務時間超過三十五年；對後者的服務，為時也超越四分之一世紀。
李博士也是公益金副赞助人，多年来他以丰富的知识和阅历为公益金服务，历任多个委员会委员，一九八四至八五年度更担任执行委员会主席。

李博士在一九六九年返回香港，可能基于对家族的责任感，决定加入东亚银行，任助理经理。他精力充沛，干劲十足，是他在银行界的成功之因。当时的东亚银行总经理介绍他给同事认识时，称他在会计和电脑两方面均具有专长和经验。那时他已是特许会计师和律师。他在银行的首项工作，是在一年之内装妥东亚第一套联机实时电脑系统，为顾客提供革命性的银行服务。一九八一至八二年，李博士出任东亚银行行政总裁。同年，他创立「银通」，成为香港第一套将不同银行的自动柜员机联结起来的网络。由这时开始，本地银行可以在公平基础上与以前独霸市场的大银行一较长短。这同时反映了他的人生哲学：合作投资计划和共同合作可以跟割喉式竞争一样有效地推进发展。在他经营下，东亚银行业务蒸蒸日上，成为香港第一所重返中国的银行，并在通过共同努力求取进步的精神下，在中国成功地推介多项合资经营项目。

李博士精力充沛，精明干练，在国际商界和政治舞台上均深受欢迎。本年初《英文虎报》曾刊登一篇文章，称李博士为「筹备委员会」内关系网络最广泛的人士，因他是在香港联交所十二间上市公司的董事，又是三十九间私营机构董事局的成员。他是道琼斯有限公司、西屋电气公司、CBS、金宝汤有限公司等的董事；另一方面，他又是Avon Products Inc、IBM、Rolls-Royce、Daimler-Benz、满地可银行和奥地利银行等重要机构的国际咨询委员会的委员。

李博士是「筹备委员会」委员，同时从一九八五年起代表银行界功能组别出任立法局议员。他曾是当年「基本法起草委员会」副主席，现在是香港特别行政区「土地发展基金」的投资委员会顾问兼召集人。李博士认为处理土地过渡是香港的任务和职责。他竭尽所能为香港服务，而对前景更是满怀乐观。

若问李博士是怎样保持乾劲，怎样的严谨而精確地履行各种职务－甚至在经常往海外的旅途中收到信函，也即时回覆，他便会谦虚地列出上天给他的恩赐；强壮的身躯、忠诚的家人、银行内训练有素的团队、朋友遍布天下、以及每晚仅需四小时的睡眠！

Earl of Birkerhead曾经说过：「心灵刚毅，利剑在握的人，世界就报之以璀璨的礼物」。所以我们发现并不是第一所提倡李博士成就的院校。英国的剑桥和牛津两所大学、及香港大学都先后给予荣誉博士学位予李博士。我们极感荣幸得蒙李博士加入岭南大家庭；我们视他为学院训陲－「作育英才，服务社会」－的一个典范。

代理港督阁下，为表扬李国宝博士个人的才誉，义无反顾促进正義和平等的精神，和不离不棄推动香港经济所作的贡献，本人谨请阁下頒予荣誉社會科学博士銜。