

## 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 convenor 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証。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。李博士覷準機會，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為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，認為是難能可貴的經歷，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「菲臘親王獎學金計劃」，資助經濟能力不足的香港學生前往劍橋修讀學位。李博士現正設法為具有潛質的中國年輕學子創辦同類計劃。

但李博士對教育的貢獻並不祇限於母校。他熱心支持職業培訓和終身進修教育，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為新穎的科目：「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為顧問，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，服務時間超逾三十五年；對後者的服務，為時也超逾四分之一世紀。

李博士也是公益金副贊助人，多年來他以豐富的知識和閱歷為公益金服務，歷任多個委員會委員，一九八四至八五年度更擔任執行委員會主席。

李博士在一九六九年返回香港，可能基於對家族的責任感，決定加入東亞銀行，任助理經理。他精力充沛，幹勁迫人，是他在銀行界迭創成功的底因。當時的東亞銀行總經理介紹他給同事認識時，稱他在會計和電腦兩方面均具有專長和經驗。那時他已是特許會計師和律師。他在銀行的首項工作，是在一年之內裝置東亞第一套聯機實時電腦系統，為顧客提供革命性的銀行服務。一九八一至八二年，李博士出任東亞銀行行政總裁。同年，他創立「銀通」，成為香港第一套將不同銀行的自動櫃員機聯繫起來的網絡。由這時開始，本地銀行可以在公平基礎上與以前獨霸市場的大銀行一較短長。這同時反映了他的人生哲學：合作投資計劃和共同合作可以跟割喉式競爭一樣有效地推進發展。在他經營下，東亞銀行業務蒸蒸日上，並成為香港第一所重返中國的銀行，而且在透過共同努力求取進步的精神下，在中國成功地推介多項合資經營項目。

李博士精力充沛，精明幹練，在國際商界和政治舞台均深受歡迎。本年初《英文虎報》曾刊登一篇文章，稱李博士為「籌備委員會」內關係網絡最廣泛的人士，因為他是香港聯交所十二間掛牌上市公司的董事，又是三十九間私營機構董事局的成員。他是道瓊斯有限公司、西屋電氣公司、CBS、金寶湯有限公司等的董事；另一方面，他又是Avon Products Inc、IBM、Rolls-Royce、Daimler-Benz、滿地可銀行和奧地利銀行等重要機構的國際諮詢委員會的委員。

李博士是「籌備委員會」委員，同時從一九八五年起代表銀行界功能組別出任立法局議員。他曾是當年「基本法起草委員會」副主席，現在是香港特別行政區「土地發展基金」的投資委員會顧問兼召集人。李博士認為處理九七過渡是他這一代的任務和職責。他竭盡所能為香港服務，而對前景更是滿懷樂觀。

若問李博士是怎樣保持幹勁，怎樣可以嚴謹而精確地履行各種職務——甚至在經常往海外的旅途中收到信函，也即時回覆，他會謙遜地列出上天給他的恩賜：強壯的體魄、忠誠的家人、銀行內訓練有素的團隊、朋友滿天下、以及每晚僅需四小時的睡眠！

Earl of Birkerhead曾經說過：「心靈剛毅，利劍在握的人，世界就報之以璀璨的禮品」。所以我們顯然並不是第一所褒揚李博士成就的院校。英國的劍橋和戈域兩所大學、及香港大學都先後頒贈榮譽博士學位予李博士。我們極感榮幸得蒙李博士加入嶺南大家庭；我們視他為學院訓諭——「作育英才，服務社會」——的一個典範。

代理港督閣下，為表揚李國寶博士個人的才華、義無反顧促進正義和平等的精神、和不離不棄推進香港經濟所作的貢獻，本人謹請閣下頒予榮譽社會科學博士銜。