

Dr Jonathan Choi Koon-shum *BBS, JP*

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES *honoris causa*

Citation

Dr Jonathan Choi Koon-shum is a distinguished businessman and educational philanthropist. Born in Macau with ancestral home in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, Dr Choi moved to Hong Kong at the age of three. After graduating from St Paul's Co-educational College, Dr Choi went to Japan to study the humanities. His study, however, was cut short by repeated calls from his father, a seafood entrepreneur and a great source of inspiration to him both in business and in life, to assist in managing the expanding business. Dr Choi started from the lowest echelon of his family business. With foresight and vision, he began the diversification which now sees the Sunwah Group involved in six principal domains — seafood and foodstuffs, real estate, financial services, infrastructure, technology, and the media. The Group currently has more than 100 subsidiaries spread all over the world.

Since the 1970s, the Choi family has started to provide financial support for the establishment of kindergartens, primary schools and colleges in native Zhongshan, and in Hong Kong and Macau. Dr Choi is widely recognised for his support for education. He has devoted a tremendous amount of time to grooming young talents in Hong Kong, Zhongshan, other parts of mainland China and overseas, including scholarships to financially less privileged students. Dr Choi is the founder of the Choi Koon Shum Chinese Academy of Sciences Honorary Academician Foundation, the Guangdong Sunwah Education Institute and the Sunwah International Business School of Liaoning University. The Sunwah Education Foundation he led collaborated with Michigan State University and Beijing Normal University to develop a “Sunwah Education Model” for basic education that integrates the strengths of Eastern and Western practices. The 3e International School, established in 2004 in Beijing to implement the Model, is now rated as a leading international school in Beijing, and the Sunwah Education Model has also been used by schools in the United States.

In recognition of his continuous contributions to the educational and technological development of China, Dr Choi was invited to meet former President Jiang Zemin in Beijing in 1995. Dr Choi also earned a Bronze Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR government for his public and community service, as well as prestigious academic awards from Michigan State University (Honorary Doctor of Humanities) in 2005, Hong Kong Polytechnic University (University Fellow) in 2007, and the University of Glamorgan (UK) (Honorary Professor) in 2009.

Over the years, Dr Choi and his family have donated huge sums to education, technology as well as arts and culture projects in Hong Kong, mainland China and other countries.

Always with a broader vision in mind, Dr Choi has been active in developing international networks to facilitate a wide range of business exchanges between China and

countries like India, Israel, Vietnam and Japan. In the field of technology, he founded the China-India Software Association in 2004 and the China Hong Kong Israel Technology Cooperation and Promotion Center in 2005. In trade and business development, he founded the Hong Kong–Vietnam Chamber of Commerce in 2008, and was appointed by the Hong Kong SAR Government to chair the Hong Kong–Japan Business Co-operation Committee in 2010.

Apart from being a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, a Standing Committee member of the All China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and an economic adviser to the President of the Chinese Academy of Science, Dr Choi was elected Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in October 2008 — the youngest person to hold the post in the Chamber’s history. He has led the Chamber to new heights, integrating the Chamber with China and the world through a wide range of new initiatives as well as bilateral or multilateral activities and exchanges. He has also initiated projects to foster harmony and a caring culture in society.

For more than three decades, Dr Choi has played an important triple role of entrepreneur, philanthropist and non-official ambassador for Hong Kong and mainland China. It is this triple role that marks out Dr Choi’s remarkable career. He gauges the situation well, evolves with the times, and seizes the moment whenever opportunities arise for him to make contributions.

Mr Chancellor, for his distinguished public service and contributions to the development of Hong Kong’s economic ties with the mainland and other countries, and to the furthering of education in Greater China, may I now present Dr Jonathan Choi Koon-shum to you for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Written and delivered by Professor Wong Yiu-chung

蔡冠深博士

榮譽社會科學博士

贊辭

蔡冠深博士是營商有道的企業家，亦是傑出的教育慈善家。蔡博士祖籍廣東中山，生於澳門，三歲移居香港。自聖保羅男女中學畢業後，即赴日本學習人文學科。在學期間，從事海產生意的父親多番催促回港，協助打理日漸擴展的家族業務。對蔡博士來說，父親不論於事業或人生上都給他不少啓發，這使他毅然放下學業，回港工作。事業起步之初，蔡博士從低做起。他高瞻遠矚，著手把家族企業向多元業務發展。時至今天，新華集團已擁有海產食品、地產建築、金融財務、基礎建設、高新科技、傳媒文化等六大範疇業務，旗下百多間分公司遍及全球。

自上世紀七十年代開始，蔡博士的家族已捐資在家鄉中山及港澳地區設立多所幼兒園和中、小學。蔡博士對教育的支持備受讚賞，他投入大量時間培訓香港、中山、其他內地地區及海外的青年人才，設立獎學金贈予經濟條件較差的學生。蔡博士並創辦蔡冠深中國科學院榮譽院士基金會、廣東新華教育學院及遼寧大學新華國際商學院。他領導的新華教育基金與美國密歇根州立大學及北京師範大學合作，為基礎教育發展出「新華教育模式」，整合東西方教學的優點。新華教育基金會已於 2004 年在北京創辦三奕國際學校，把「新華教育模式」付諸實行。三奕國際學校現時已是北京最好的國際學校之一，而「新華教育模式」更獲美國一些學校採用。

蔡博士於 1995 年獲前國家主席江澤民先生在北京接見，嘉許他對中國內地教育和科技發展的貢獻。蔡博士亦獲香港特區政府頒授銅紫荊星章，表揚他在公共和社會服務方面的貢獻。此外，蔡博士屢獲學術殊榮，2005 年獲密歇根州立大學頒授榮譽人文學博士學位，2007 獲香港理工大學頒發大學院士銜、2009 年獲英國格拉摩根大學頒授榮譽教授銜。

多年來，蔡博士和家人慷慨捐輸，大力支持香港、中國內地及其他國家的教育、科技以至文化藝術項目。

蔡博士目光遠大，積極開拓國際網絡，為中國與印度、以色列、越南、日本等國家的廣泛商貿往來打下基礎。在科技發展方面，蔡博士於 2004 年創立「中印軟件協會」，2005 年創立「中國香港以色列民間科技合作及促進中心」。在商貿發展方面，蔡博士於 2008 年創立「香港越南商會」，並於 2010 年獲香港特區政府委任為香港日本經濟合作委員會主席。

除擔任全國政協委員、全國工商聯合會常委及中國科學院院長經濟顧問等職務外，蔡博士於 2008 年 10 月獲選為中華總商會會長，是該會有史以來最年輕的會長。在蔡博士領導下，中華總商會屢創佳績，通過不同舉措以至雙邊和多邊合作和交流活動，加強與中國和世界的聯繫，並致力促進社會和諧及關愛文化。

三十多年來，蔡博士穿梭香港和內地，擔當了「企業家－慈善家－民間大使」的三重角色，功不可沒。正是這與眾不同的三重角色，體現了他在事業上獨當一面的成就。蔡博士善於審時度勢，把握機遇，與時並進，時時不忘盡己所能，貢獻社會。

校監先生，為表揚蔡博士對香港公共服務的熱心投入，為香港和內地以至其他國家建立經濟聯繫及推動大中華教育發展所作的貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予蔡冠深博士。

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