

Mr PAN Sutong

Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*

Citation

A native of Shaoguan, Guangdong Province, Mr PAN Sutong was born in Guangzhou, moving to the US at 13 and to Hong Kong at 21. His career began with trading Panasonic electronic goods. In 1993 he founded the Matsunichi group, progressing from trading to manufacturing home appliances, including digital electronic consumer goods like MP3 players, digital photo frames, video phone systems, removable USB disks and LCD display TV sets. In 2002 the Group bought a Hong Kong listed company, enhancing its development of digital electronic consumer products.

Mr Pan then made his next business move from industrial production to real estate and finance; he is currently Chairman of Goldin Real Estate Financial Holdings Ltd (also known as Goldin Group), which includes Goldin Financial Holdings Ltd (Hong Kong-listed), Goldin Properties Holdings Ltd, Goldin Equities Ltd, and Germany-listed Gigaset AG. Spread over countries on four continents, his business is diverse and international in scope, encompassing real estate development, financial investment services, red wine, high-end electronics products in Hong Kong, China and abroad, as well as polo and horse breeding. One of Mr Pan's signature achievements is "Goldin Metropolitan" in Tianjin, a mega-scale, high-end real estate integrated development project, which includes a skyscraper close to 600 metres in structural height, making it the third tallest building in the world. This mega-integrated project is scheduled for completion by phases in 2019.

As an international entrepreneur, Mr Pan takes a broad perspective on matters, always alert to national development trends and international business opportunities. Indeed, Goldin Group has been actively taking every opportunity to launch diverse, international, integrated and high-end businesses, all aimed at building up a quality name brand. The basic principles of Mr Pan's business expansion and management can be summed up by a few core concepts: readiness to give up, down-to-earth work, and trustworthiness. One must make choices and give up options before one can gain; maintain hard work without trusting the whims of fortune to reward the non-exerting; and establish credibility as a human being.

In order to be in step with the nation's future development plans, Mr Pan and like-minded spirits established the Belt & Road Initiative General Chamber of Commerce in 2017, a non-government cooperative platform based on "wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits"; he also made a donation to set up a foundation of which he serves as Chairman. The Chamber's goal is to bring together professionals in the business and industrial sectors in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau, while leveraging Hong Kong's unique strength in facilitating the Belt & Road Initiative; through building a network and helping Chinese business sectors open up economic opportunities, the Chamber hopes to contribute to international construction and development planned under the Initiative. A year later, the Chamber has become one of the most representative business development platforms of the Belt & Road Initiative, making substantive contribution to the economic development of Hong Kong. It is natural that Mr Pan was elected a National Committee member of the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in 2018.

Mr Pan has also taken up other leadership roles within his business domains. These include serving as representative of the Hong Kong delegation at the 12th National Congress of the All-China Federation of Industry & Commerce; Honorary President of the Hong Kong-Shanghai

Economic Development Association; Principal President of the 8th Council of Hong Kong Island Federation; Chairman of Hong Kong Polo Development & Promotion Federation; Vice President of the Federation of International Polo.

Beyond personal career achievements, Mr Pan is an ardent philanthropist, concerned with work that “mends the mind and mends the body”. Sensitive especially to the educational needs of his hometown, Mr Pan established an educational foundation in 2004, each year supporting needy Shaoguan middle-school graduates to proceed to higher education. He funded the construction of a 7-storey multi-functional complex in Shaoguan’s Guangdong Beijiang Middle School in 2014, benefitting 3,500 students and teachers. In supporting medical work, Mr Pan has donated funds to the Department of Pathology at The University of Hong Kong’s Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine for genomics diagnosis and research into hereditary colorectal cancer, aimed at identifying new hereditary intestinal cancer driver genes; the research has benefitted not only the several hundred target families in the study, but families around the world suffering from hereditary colorectal cancer.

As far as Lingnan University is concerned, Mr Pan has staunchly supported academic research on the economic development of China and Hong Kong. Lingnan’s “Pan Sutong Shanghai-Hong Kong Economic Policy Research Centre” was set up in 2014 with his generous donation, aimed at bringing together research talents in the economics field through harnessing various resources in mainland China and Hong Kong, thereby enhancing research on salient issues in economic cooperation and the financial development of both places. The Centre offers research consultancy on industries and on economic policies, providing timely policy advice and reference for promoting the prosperity of mainland China and Hong Kong. Over the past few years, the Centre has seen substantial output in its research on such topics as the Belt & Road Initiative, internationalisation of Renminbi, free trade zones and economic cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong.

In early 2018, Mr Pan made another donation to upgrade the Centre to “Pan Sutong Shanghai-Hong Kong Economic Policy Research Institute”, strengthening research study and advocacy of such issues as the Belt & Road Initiative, Greater Bay Area development, Shanghai-Hong Kong collaboration, thus enhancing the overall economic competitiveness of Hong Kong and cooperation between Shanghai and Hong Kong. The donation also supports the establishment of “STEAM Education and Research Centre”, which advances university students’ knowledge and application of ideas in innovation and entrepreneurship, strengthens teacher training, and supports local primary and secondary school students in learning and applying STEAM knowledge, thereby supporting Hong Kong’s future development in innovation, entrepreneurship and technology.

Honourable Chancellor, in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements and distinguished service to the business and industrial sectors as well as to the Hong Kong community, may I present Mr PAN Sutong to you for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Charles KWONG