

Mr Lee Ming-kwai, GBS

Honorary Fellow

Citation

It has been more than a century since Mr Lee Ming-kwai's great-grandfathers left Panyu in Guangdong Province to come to Hong Kong, where their descendants have put down roots. Mr Lee is a true Hong Konger, born and bred. He excelled in history in secondary school and, upon graduation, enrolled in The Chinese University of Hong Kong as a History major. Post-graduation, he joined the Hong Kong Police Force, where he was eventually promoted to Commissioner of Police. When he retired in 2007, he decided to play to his strengths and continued contributing to society as the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Institute for Public Administration.

Mr Lee's father fought in the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. When Hong Kong fell, he joined the British Army Aid Group to assist the Allied Forces in their counterattack. So Mr Lee was following in his ancestor's footsteps when he joined the Police Force. He aspired to uphold the law and protect the people of Hong Kong, like his father had done.

Mr Lee first enrolled in the Hong Kong Police Force right when it was in the middle of the anti-corruption campaign – when its reputation had taken a beating. Understanding the importance of learning from history, particularly the history of his family, he was determined to rewrite the history of the Force. In the end, he succeeded in turning this crisis into an opportunity and helped uproot corruption. Since he joined the Force in the 70s, Mr Lee has remained in the forefront of its dramatic growth, accumulating vast reserves of knowledge and experience. He would draw on these reserves as Commissioner until his retirement in the 2000s.

As Mr Lee himself says, it was only after participating in police work that he understood the real value of studying history, and the art of finding answers in a big, untidy mass of information. When investigating a case, he would pay special attention to the details, details that seemed irrelevant at first. In addition to investigating and solving cases, he also had dealt with protests. He says that the most remarkable operation he conducted was when he ordered for Beethoven's 5th symphony to be played outside the venue where celebrations were being held for the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Mr Lee's success in easing the tensions of the protest with "soft" countermeasures was a reflection of his quick reaction to emergencies – a skill developed from his application of history.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference was held in Hong Kong in December 2005, posing a considerable challenge for the police. Mr Lee inspected the venue personally beforehand and devised a detailed security plan for any emergencies. He sent colleagues overseas to visit relevant agencies to study security issues relevant to the Ministerial Conference and analyse the profiles of potential trouble-makers intending to come to Hong Kong and disrupt proceedings. He also collected various intelligence related to the Conference. The demonstrations

staged by Korean farmers were subdued with minimal force in an operation that went entirely according to plan. The “Korean Farmers’ Incident” has become a model of police restraint in dealing with protests, a case study all new recruits have to study.

While planning security for the WTO Ministerial Conference, there was a small detail that particularly caught Mr Lee’s attention. He had noticed pavement bricks in the area where the Conference would be held, and that these bricks could easily be used as weapons during any conflict. To allay this concern, he had glue poured into the gaps between the bricks to stick them together so they could not be dug out. It worked. Ever since, “glued bricks” has been one of the strategies deployed by the police when dealing with street protests.

After a storied career, Mr Lee decided to retire early to allow a successful handover within the Force. He then volunteered to be the unpaid Executive Director of the Hong Kong Institute for Public Administration and started yet another golden period of life. He also lectures on topics that range from Chinese and international history and public administration to cultural conservation and even cooking.

Mr Lee’s skill with both the pen and the baton have helped him in his distinguished calling. His long-term dedication to building a safe and orderly living environment for Hong Kongers makes him a role model for the city’s civic leaders. Your Honour, I have much pleasure in presenting to you Mr Lee Ming-kwai for the award of an honorary fellowship of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Lau Chi-pang

李明達先生

榮譽院士

贊辭

李明達先生祖籍廣東番禺，祖上三代移居香港超過百年，是名副其實的香港人。李先生在香港出生，就學期間歷史科成績優異，高中畢業後順利考入香港中文大學主修歷史。李先生大學畢業後加入警隊，2007年於警務處處長任內退休；現任香港公共行政學院院長。李先生父親於抗戰期間參與保衛香港，並加入英軍服務團協助盟軍反攻；李先生投筆從戎，不無家族淵源。

李先生加入警隊的時候，警察形象不佳；當時正值香港社會掀起反貪污運動，警隊首當其衝。李先生深明「以史為鑑」的道理，於是積極參與警隊改寫歷史，最終轉危為機，一洗警隊「貪污腐敗」的作風。從七十年代入職到2000年後退役，李先生經歷了警隊迅速發展的年代。他亦隨著警隊成長，從中學習不同的知識，累積無數的經驗，為他後來擔任警務處處長打好基礎。

李先生直言，他參與警務工作之後才領略到學習歷史的用處，以及從一大堆凌亂的資料中理出解決問題的頭緒及箇中價值。因此，他調查案件時特別注重細節，也不會輕易放過看似毫無關連的資料。除了案件偵緝外，他也曾處理示威活動。李先生指揮的行動中，最為人所樂道的是在回歸慶典會場外播放貝多芬的《第五交響曲》，以軟性的對策緩和了現場的抗爭氣氛。這種臨陣的機智，與李先生長年研習的歷史知識不無關係。

2005年12月，世界貿易組織部長級會議在香港召開，這對警隊來說是一大挑戰。李處長為此布置了慎密的保安計劃，從事前親自到現場行動到善後工作，盡可能做到巨細無遺、面面俱到。他指派同事走訪海外了解世貿會議期間的保安事宜，深入分析有可能來港滋事的人物，並四出收集有關香港會議期間的情報。最後警方根據原定計劃在預設的範圍內以最低限度的武力平息了韓農的示威。韓農事件不但成為香港警隊克制處理同類騷亂的重要參考，也成為新入職警員學習應付暴亂場面的指定教材。

李先生在籌備世貿會議保安計劃時特別關注一項細節。他注意到會場所在的地區有不少以磚塊砌成的行人路，磚塊隨時可以變為衝突時的武器；結果他想到用膠水黏合磚塊之間的夾縫，這個方法十分奏效。黏合地磚自此成為警隊處理街頭抗爭的部署策略之一。

經歷了豐盛多姿的警隊生涯之後，李先生特意提早退休，令警隊的管理層得以順利交接。退休後的李先生展開了人生另一段黃金歲月；他分毫不取，以義工身分主持香港

公共行政學院的學務，更不時主講有關中外歷史、公共行政、文物保育，甚至入廚心得等內容。

李明達先生從文入武，以武行文，事業卓有成就；多年來致力為香港締造一個安全而有秩序的生活環境，是香港社會領袖的表率。主席先生，本人謹恭請閣下頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜予李明達先生。

贊辭由劉智鵬教授撰寫及宣讀