

Twenty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony of Lingnan College
Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*
A Citation

Prof Wang Luolin

Mr Visitor,

In the past, we often heard people say: "Even though you do not care about politics, politics will get in your way." But in today's world, economics has a far more pervasive influence than politics: even if you don't care about politics, politics may leave you alone; but you just cannot do without some knowledge of economics, because economics is part of everyday life and it *involves* you. All of you present here today must have this kind of experience: whether you are employed or seeking employment, you are directly under the influence of both Hong Kong's and the world's economies. When the economy is good, you will enjoy a higher rate of increase in salary, and it is easier to get a job; but when the economy is bad, your salary increase will be frozen and you have to wait quite a long while before an employment opportunity comes in to view.

Prof Wang Luolin is different from most of us here. More than thirty years ago, when economics had not yet *involved* him, he already "took a hand" in economics. After a couple of years, he achieved splendid results, graduating from the Department of Economics at Beijing University. But Prof Wang did not return to his birthplace, the city of Wuchang in Hubei Province, after graduation; he instead went a long way to the southern part of China and worked at Xiamen University. There he took up posts as Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor in the Departments of Economics and International Marketing. From 1980 to 1981 he was Visiting Scholar in the Belgrade Economics Research Centre in Yugoslavia. He was the Vice-President of Xiamen University from 1984 to 1993. Since 1993, he has been the Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and supervisor of doctoral candidates.

In his capacity as Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Prof Wang is occupied with onerous tasks; why has he taken on the extra burdensome responsibility of supervising doctoral students? Because Prof Wang has, all along, been concerned about the provision of adequate guidance to both young and older academics. When he worked in Xiamen University, he frequently organised small groups of such academics to study the economies of the special regions and provide consultation services to the municipal government and various enterprises. After he joined the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, he organised regular forums on economic development and reform issues and submitted research reports on the country's development strategies and policies.

In Chinese, the word *jingji* may refer to either the discipline of economics or ways of running the country and taking care of people's livelihood. When Mei Yao-chen, a poet of the Sung Dynasty, said, "I am really a country bumpkin who knows nothing about *jingji*," he meant he did not know how to administer a state and promote public welfare. A scholar of the Tang Dynasty was once satirised by the great poet Li Bai for being ignorant about ways to run a state:

The Lu Oldie brags about his knowledge of the Five Classics;
His hair whitens with the ancient chapters and sections.
When asked about economic strategies,
He will be completely lost at sea.
He steps into shoes for walking long distances,
Wearing a square kerchief,
Then he walks stragglingly along the straight road;
The dust rises even before he raises his feet.

If this "Lu Oldie" had been able to take the time machine of the English writer H G Wells and fly into the 1990s to pursue PhD studies with Prof Wang, and then speed back to the Tang Dynasty, he would not have been ridiculed by the great poet, because he should have learned from Prof Wang "economic strategies".

What is Prof Wang's economic strategy? Prof Wang is now in charge of six economics-related research institutes in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Under his direction, the various institutes not only attach great significance to the study of basic theories, but, with the aim to cater for the needs of contemporary economic developments, engage in broad and deep explorations of issues related to the various economic sectors. These studies lie in the forefront of theory and practice. China has a population of 1.2 billion; finding ways to build up the country's economy poses an almost intractable challenge to all its economists. Having studied economics for many years, Prof Wang not only has pioneered in the domain of theory, but has put theory to practical use.

Prof Wang has placed considerable emphasis on exchange activities between China and foreign countries. At Xiamen University and at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, he has actively sought to explore exchange opportunities with overseas academic institutions. He has made untiring efforts to establish academic ties, to bring in experts and specialists from the outside world, and to promote international understanding and cooperation.

Additionally, Prof Wang is active in public service. He is the President of the China-Japanese Economics Association, Vice-President of the Chinese Financial Society, Council Member of the World Economics Society in China, Member of the Committee on Chinese Pacific Economic Cooperation, Member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese Eastern European and Central Asian Society, Council Member of the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association, and Adviser to the cities of Harbin, Ningpo, and Beihai.

Prof Wang has been engaged in research for more than thirty years, which has resulted in a superb record of publications. These include *An Evaluation of the Socio-Economic Effects of Foreign Investment*, *Some Issues Concerning the Operational Transfer Mechanism of the State-owned Foreign Trade Enterprises*, *The Economic Development and Reform in the Soviet Union*, *Forecast of the Chinese Macro Economy in 1997*, *Theory and Practice of the Modern Enterprise System*, *Analysis and Prospects of the Chinese Economy in 2000*, and *Practice of the Establishment of the Socialist Market Economic System in Hainan*.

Mr Visitor, for the distinguished achievements he has made in economics, and for his excellent services in research education and in the promotion of academic exchanges between China and the world, may I present Prof Wang Luolin for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature *honoris causa*.

榮譽文學博士王洛林教授讚辭

監督先生：

以前，我們經常聽人說：“你不理政治，政治會理你。”但是，在今日的世界，經濟的地位已驕驕然有凌駕政治之勢：你不理政治，政治不一定會理你；你不理經濟，經濟偏會理你。可不是麼？在座各位，不管是在職還是準備求職，都直接受本港以至世界的經濟影響：經濟好，加薪的幅度較大，求職也比較容易；經濟不好，薪金會遭到凍結，覓業會變成待業。

王洛林教授，與在座的許多嘉賓不同：三十多年前，經濟的手還沒有“理”他，他已經主動去“理”經濟了；“理”了數年，成績斐然，於一九六零年在北京大學經濟系畢業。王教授畢業後，沒有回出生地湖北省武昌市，卻遠赴中國南疆，在廈門大學工作，先後擔任經濟系、國際貿易系講師、副教授、教授。一九八零年至一九八一年在南斯拉夫貝爾格萊德經濟研究所當訪問學者。一九八四年至一九九三年任廈門大學副校長。一九九三年迄今，任中國社會科學院副院長、研究生院博士生導師。

王教授身膺中國社會科學院副院長的要職，工作繁重，怎麼還要百上加斤，負起指導博士研究生的任務呢？原來王教授一向關心中青年學者的培養工作。在廈門大學工作期間，曾多次組織中青年學者專題研究特區經濟，為市政和企業提供諮詢；在中國社會科學院工作期間，組織建立了中青年經濟學家論壇，定期就經濟發展和改革問題進行討論，為國家的發展戰略和決策提供研究報告。

“經濟”一詞，既指經濟這門學科，也有“經世濟民”之意。宋朝詩人梅堯臣說：“我實山野人，不識經濟宜”，就是指自己不懂經世濟民之策。唐朝一位儒生，曾因為不懂經世濟民之策而遭大詩人李白嘲諷：

魯叟談五經，
白髮死章句。
問以經濟策，
茫如墜煙霧。
足著遠遊履，
首戴方山巾。
緩步從直道，
未行先起塵。

這位“魯叟”，如果能夠乘英國作家威爾斯(H. G. Wells)的時間機器飛進二十世紀九十年代，在王洛林教授的博士班修讀學位，然後再飛回盛唐，就一定不會遭大詩人嘲笑了，因為他可以在王教授班上學到“經濟策”。

王教授的經濟策是怎樣的呢？王教授目前主管社會科學院六個經濟方面研究所的科研工作。在他的領導下，各研究所在注重基礎理論的同時，還結合當前國家經濟發展的需要，對經濟各領域多方面的問題進行廣泛而深入的調查研究，隨時處在理論和實踐的前沿。中國有十二億人口，如何建設中國的經濟，是全國經濟學家要面對的一大挑戰。王教授從事經濟研究多年，不但在理論的領域站在前列，而且能活用理論。

王教授一向重視中國與外國的交流，無論在廈門大學還是在社會科學院工作期間，都積極開闢與國外學術研究機構的交流途徑，建立學術交流關係，為引進國外優秀人才、增進互相了解、開展國際交流與合作而努力不懈。

此外，王教授還擔任多項社會兼職，包括中華日本經濟學會會長、中國金融學會副會長、中國世界經濟學會理事、中國太平洋經濟合作全國委員會委員、中國東歐中亞學會常務理事、中國國際經濟合作學會理事、哈爾濱市、寧波市、北海市顧問。

王教授從事經濟研究三十多年，成果早已見於等身的著作，其中包括：《外商投資的社會經濟效益評價》、《關於國有外貿企業轉換經營機制的幾個問題》、《蘇聯的經濟發展與改革》、《1997年中國宏觀經濟預測》、《現代企業制度的理論與實踐》、《中國經濟——2000年分析與展望》、《海南建立社會主義市場經濟體制的實踐》。

監督先生，為表揚王洛林教授在經濟領域的卓越成就、對培養中青年學者和促進中外學術交流的努力，懇請頒予榮譽文學博士銜。