

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Mr Wong Shek-wah

Citation

An elderly gentleman of over eighty has, throughout his life, cared deeply about his country and fellow countrymen despite ups and downs in personal fortune. For decades, he persevered in promoting the cause of re-unification in writing, with scant regard for his own gain or loss. Further, he wholeheartedly encouraged the study of the Hakkas and laid solid foundations for the study of Han lineages. He is one of our honorees of today – Mr Wong Shek-wah.

Mr Wong, who is of Hakka descent, was born in 1919 in Longchuan, Guangdong. He is the second son of General Wong Man, and is descended from the anti-Yuan hero Wong Hoi-lung (sworn brother of Wen Tianxiang). Having lost his father at an early age, and finding himself in straitened circumstances, Mr Wong was brought up by his mother. Family poverty notwithstanding, Mr Wong had strong career aspirations. Even as a student at the secondary level, he started to write for several newspapers and magazines and earned money for his own schooling. In this way his intellectual and writing abilities flourished. At eighteen he took part in the college graduation examinations and came third, a fact which testifies to his marvelous intellectual powers. Japan invaded China in the following year, and the patriotic Mr Wong joined in the combat against the Japanese. He co-established with General Chang Tsang-man an Anti-Japanese Society in his hometown, and organized the Dongjiang Anti-Japanese Troops, serving as Chief Executive under Zhang Ke-ming.

Mr Wong sat the entrance examinations for Central Chengchi University later, coming first among the candidates from Guangdong. After graduating from the university, he got a distinction in the civil service examinations for senior government posts. In his job he was able to display his talents to the full. He headed the policy-making division of the Land Administration Department of the Nationalist government, and was responsible for drafting regulations pertaining to the assistance of self-employed peasants. He also took it upon himself to direct the "experimental" land administration in Beipei (Sichuan), Huanghuizui (Gansu), and Lungyan (Fujian). With his remarkable performance he became a promoter in land reforms in contemporary China. His knowledge and experience in land reform had caught the attention of Mr Lim Yew Hock, Chief Minister of Singapore, while he was doing business in Singapore and Malaya in the 1950s. Through the introduction of the latter he met Tunku Abdul Rahman, Founding Father and Prime Minister of Malaya. Mr Wong had recommended that land reform with Malayan characteristics be introduced in Malaya and his views were favourably received by Tunku. While in Lanzhou he wrote weekly articles on current affairs for the two leading local newspapers, commenting rigorously on political issues. In 1943, Mr Wong joined academia, and taught successively at tertiary institutions like National Lanzhou University and Guangzhou University. Among the books he wrote were *Land Economy* and *Economic Construction, Self Reliance and Utilization of Foreign Capital to Build the National Economy*. On the basis of these books he was formally certified as a professor by the Nationalist government.

When the Second World War was over, Mr Wong gave up his academic career and turned to business, founding the Sun Yuan Business Group of Weaving, Garment and Buttons in Guangzhou. It was among the largest privately-owned factory of its kind in South China. In 1949 Mr Wong moved to Hong Kong with his entire family. There, with his wife, he founded the On Seng Tong Medical Factory. He invented new equipment and Chinese medicine, helped spread Chinese traditional medical knowledge, and marketed his products all over the world. Mr Wong is presently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cheong Man Wah Enterprise Co Ltd. He is without doubt a most reputable scholar-businessman.

Hakka settlers the world over are numbered in millions, and Mr Wong is one of the best-known Hakka luminaries both in Hong Kong and worldwide. Since 1968 he has been President and Chairman of the Executive Board of the Hong Kong Tsung Tsin Association – and indeed, its helmsman. In 1971, the Association launched the First World Hakka Assembly of Representatives, an acclaimed landmark in forging unity among overseas Chinese living in different continents. In September 1998, the World Federation of Hakka Tsung Tsin Associations was established in Hong Kong and, most deservedly, Mr Wong was elected Chairman of the Executive Board.

Mr Wong's zeal in promoting Hakka Studies is internationally known. When the Hong Kong Tsung Tsin Association was founded in 1921, the first President, the famous scholar Lai Jixi, stipulated the goals of "uncovering Hakka origins, developing business and commerce, educating talents, and working together for the world at large." Like the traditional Chinese "scholar-gentleman," Mr Wong sought eagerly to realize these goals and spiritual values during his term as President and Chairman of the Executive Board of the Association. Hakka Studies was begun in the 1930s, and at the beginning only individual scholars (as for instance Professor Luo Xianglin of The University of Hong Kong) were involved. In the 1980s, under the able leadership of Mr Wong, the Tsung Tsin Association actively pursued Hakka research, taking it to ever higher levels of sophistication.

For Mr Wong, studies of Hakka communities should adopt a scientific and inter-disciplinary (historical, sociological, anthropological, linguistic and folkloristic, etc.) approach, with patterns of development carefully scrutinized. With Mr Wong's active promotion, the International Hakka Studies Association was founded in 1992, and then East China Normal University and Beijing University founded, respectively, a Hakka Studies Department and a Research Centre for Hakka Studies. Other Hakka Studies Centres that have been established so far in Taiwan, Chinese Mainland and overseas are well-nigh innumerable, and Hakka Studies has now become a prominent area of study. The study of ethnic groups in China has expanded considerably, too; research is now carried out on Chaozhou Studies and Fujian Studies. Hakka Studies can be said to have set in motion a trend, and in this Mr Wong's contribution is most significant.

Heeding the admonition of the founders of the Tsung Tsin Association "to work for the world at large and to love one's countrymen and fellow human beings," Mr Wong has worked most tirelessly. At the turn of the millennium, probably nothing engages the energies of the Chinese as much as the unification of their country. For decades Mr Wong has been looking for a rational way of peacefully reunifying China. He has written and talked to political leaders on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Close to his heart is the future of the Chinese people. In 1997, Mr Wong urged the creation of the Hong Kong Centre for Research on Cross-Strait Relations and was elected as its President. Ever so enthusiastic in advancing strategies for re-unification, he prepared "Ten Points Concerning Our Nation." These were favourably received by leaders on both sides of the Strait.

Under the leadership and active promotion of Mr Wong, the Tsung Tsin Association has for years played active roles in boosting academic research, education and teaching. It has sponsored academic conferences both locally and overseas, and it provided financial support for the establishment of the Research Programme on Ethnicity and Overseas Chinese Economies at Lingnan University. It has made donations to Beijing University and to China Agricultural University; it has set up scholarships at various tertiary institutions. Its contribution to education, teaching, and the evolution of a modern knowledge-based society is indeed substantial. Undoubtedly Mr Wong is a far-sighted social leader and scholar-gentleman who is blessed with an in-depth understanding about the modern world.

Mr Chairman, throughout his life, whether as an academic, a businessman, or a community leader, Mr Wong has proved to be a patriotic, "broad-minded gentleman with a steadfast character, serious goals and strong principles who has a clear idea of what he should do." May I now present Mr Wong Shek-wah for the award of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

黃石華先生

贊辭

一個年逾 80 歲的長者，在其一生中不論個人處於逆境抑或順境，始終心繫國家和民族，為國家的統一和民族的團結而秉筆直書，數十年如一日，從不計較個人得失。近 30 年，他更盡心盡力推廣客家民系的研究，為漢族民系研究奠定了堅實的基礎，他就是我們今天要表彰的黃石華先生。

石華先生生於 1919 年，廣東龍川縣客籍人士，抗元民族英雄黃海龍（文天祥結義兄弟）裔孫，辛亥革命護法軍統領黃文將軍次子。黃先生幼年失怙，家道中落，由寡母曾氏教養長大，而先生未因家貧而喪失凌雲志。在龍川第一中學時，先生開始投稿多家報刊，賺取稿費以幫補學費，由此鍛煉了其思維與筆力。18 歲先參加廣東全省高中畢業會考，名列第三，初顯其才智。翌年，抗戰爆發，滿腔熱血的黃先生奮起參加抗日工作，與張增文將軍在江成立抗日救國會，分任正副會長，並追隨張克明先生，成立抗日先鋒隊，被推任為總幹事。

先生後來投考中央政治大學，在廣東區的考生中名列榜首。大現學業後參加政府高等文官考試，獲優等及格，隨後在職務上展其才華，先後主持國民政府中央地政單位政策科，負責草擬扶持自耕農條例，並指導四川北碚、甘肅涇惠渠及福建龍岩地政實驗區工作，政績顯著，為近代中國土地改革推動者之一。50 年代，先生星馬經商時，鑑於其在大陸之土改經驗，原新加坡首席部長林有議在福先生引薦見馬來西亞國父東姑阿都拉曼。其後，先生向東姑建議在馬國實行適合當地國情之土地改革。在蘭州時，先生常在當地兩報撰文，針砭時政。1943 年起，黃先生的進修入職，著在大界工作，先後擔任國立蘭州大學，廣州大學等高等院校的教職，並憑有關學術專著獲國民政府審定為教授。

抗戰勝利後，先生棄學從商，在廣州創辦以「申原」為名之棉紡、製衣、鈕扣企業集團，在當時華南之民營紡織業中，規模可說數一數二。1949 年，先生舉家來港，與夫人在港成立安生堂藥廠，發明溫灸器、藥，發揚中國醫療文化，產品暢銷世界各地。先生現為香港昌文華企業有限公司董事長，是一個知名的儒商。

散居全球各地的客家人達數千萬，而黃先生則為香港及全球最著名的客家人領袖之一。自 1968 年以來，先生出任香港崇正總會會長、理事長等多職，一直是該會的領航人。1971 年，香港崇正總會總會長、主倡召開首次世界客屬懇親代表大會，被譽為海外華人團結的新里程碑，亦為海外華人洲際聯誼之蒿矢。1998 年 9 月，全球客

家、崇正會聯合總會於香港成立，先生受推舉為聯合總會之執事長，可謂實至名歸。

石華先生最為人所熟悉者是其推動客家學研究的熱忱。香港崇正總會創立於1921年，首任會長賴際熙翰林將總會之宗旨訂為「考証客家源流，發展工商，興學育才，共謀公益，以天下為己任」。具有強烈中國傳統士人性格的黃先生，在主持崇正總會期間把有關宗旨及精神發揚得淋漓盡致。客家學研究始於30年代，初期由個別學者進行，如香港大學的羅香林教授等。80年代，在先生的領導下，崇正總會積極參與及引導客家學的研究，把客家學的研究引向更高更深的層次。先生認為，客家民系研究，應該運用科學方法與跨學科（包括歷史學、社會學、文化人類學、語言學、民俗學等）的角度來進行，論証族群的發展規律。在先生的主催下，國際客家學會於1992年成立，其後上海華東師範大學及北京大學分別成立了客家系及客家研究中心。迄今，台灣、內地及海外各大學顯的研究機構已成立的客家研究中心不勝枚舉，客家學成為了中國族群民系的研究如今已推展至潮州學、閩學等，客家學的研究可說開風氣之先，而先生則居功至偉。

石華先生秉承崇正總會創會先賢以天下為己任，愛國家，愛民族，愛人類的遺訓，身體力行，一以貫之。在新世紀之交，大概沒有比祖國的統一更令炎黃子孫魂牽夢縈。先生數十年來，一直深思探求兩岸和平統一的理性途徑，或執筆為文，或向兩岸執政者晉言，莫不以國族民命為念。1997年，先生更偕同崇正總會，力促成立以學人與專業人士為核心的“香港海峽兩岸關係研究中心”，並親自出任會長。中心成立後致力為海峽兩岸的和平統一建言獻策，而先生所整理提出的「十點國是意見」，亦備受兩岸執政者所重視。

此外，在先生的促進下，香港崇正總會多年來積極扮演了學術和文教事業推動者的角色，舉其大者，如贊助本港及海外各文教機構舉辦學術研討會，資助嶺南大學成立族群與海外華人經濟研究部，捐助北京大學國際關係學院及中國農業大學，在各大學設立獎學金等。有關文教活動，對促進現代知識型社會的發展，貢獻至大。先生不愧是一個具有現代眼光及前瞻性思維的社團領導人和士人。

主席先生，綜觀石華先生的一生，不論是教學或經商，或擔任社團領導人，事事以國家民族為念，是一個「極具性格，有擔當，有原則，有所為亦有所不為的豪賢之士」，本人謹恭請主席先生頒授榮譽法學博士予黃石華先生。