

## Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

### Mr Patrick Wu Po-kong

#### Citation

Coming from a family of bankers, Mr Patrick Wu Po-kong has solidified and expanded on the achievements of his uncles and father. He is presently Vice-Chairman and Executive Director of Wing Lung Bank Ltd.

In 1933, Dr Wu Yee-sun, the uncle of Mr Patrick Wu, established Wing Lung Ngan Ho in Hong Kong. He was soon joined by his younger brother Dr Wu Jieh-ye, the father of Mr Patrick Wu. In the thirty years or so that followed, even while the political and social environment was undergoing drastic changes, Wing Lung Ngan Ho was able, in a spirit of dedicated service and self-improvement, to ensure regular growth itself and to make lasting contributions in the field by helping new industries and firms to grow and prosper. Its being renamed Wing Lung Bank in 1960 signaled the inauguration of a new era.

Mr Patrick Wu, a Lingnanian, attended Lingnan Primary School at Stubbs Road and was a boarder from Primary Two to Primary Four. The three years of studies and dormitory life were among the happiest times of his life; many of his bosom and life-long friends were made during this period. After finishing Primary Four, owing to political turmoil in China, Mr Wu knew he could not be directly admitted to Lingnan University in Guangzhou nor the high school affiliated with it. He thus transferred to Wah Yan College and pursued his secondary education there. He went to Australia for further studies afterwards, returning in the early sixties to join Wing Lung Bank Ltd. He started at the lowest levels and worked his way up, and his career roughly paralleled the rapid expansion of the bank itself. Mr Wu recounts how he was assigned the job of a cashier responsible for counting banknotes, just in order that he could be familiarized with the various aspects of the banking business and acquire a spirit of devotion and perseverance.

When Dr Wu Yee-sun retired in 1976 and Dr Wu Jieh-ye succeeded him as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr Patrick Wu took over the post of General Manager that his father originally also occupied. Subsequent years saw the proliferation of branch offices, the transformation into a listed company, the multiplication of banking services and products, and the computerization of banking processes. All these reflected not only the flourishing business but also the success of Mr Patrick Wu's long-range plans. Today, Mr Wu runs Wing Lung Bank with his brothers and cousins, co-ordinating all the different areas of activity and undoubtedly doing an admirable job. In addition, Mr Patrick Wu has served in numerous professional bodies of the banking and business sectors. These include, *inter alia*, as Chairman of the Hong Kong Overseas Bankers Club; Vice-President of the Chartered Institute of Bankers - Hong Kong Center; Honorary President of the Chinese Bankers Club of Hong Kong; Vice-President of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers; Committee Member of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, and Vice-Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce - Hong Kong-China Business Council.

Mr Patrick Wu has learned from his forefathers the value of frugality and diligence; he is not given to extravagance. He is indeed most generous, humorous and optimistic. His subordinates can testify to how he attends personally to matters great and small. Characteristic of all the members of the Wu family are a practical and gentlemanly approach to life, and an attitude of humility and fair-mindedness. The Wu family is among the most reputed business families in Hong Kong; for three generations from Dr Wu Yee-sun onwards they are noted for their honest business dealings. The three Wu brothers (including Dr Wu Yee-sun and Dr Wu Jieh-ye) are married to the three daughters of the

Ho Family - for a while this was a fairytale for everybody in town. Mr Patrick Wu's family life is the envy of all his friends and colleagues. Mrs Amy Wu is a most devoted wife; she attends carefully to her husband's needs and successfully brings up a son and a daughter, both of whom have their own eminent careers.

Mr Patrick Wu never forgets the education he received at Lingnan, and helps to solve problems at Lingnan wholeheartedly. He repays his gratitude not only by frequent and generous donations, but also by giving freely of his time and energy. He is directly engaged in co-ordinating work at the highest level. He was School Manager of Lingnan Primary School, Member of the Board of Directors as well as School Manager of Lingnan Secondary School, Treasurer of the Board of Governors and Council of Lingnan College, and Member of the Court of Lingnan University. For a quarter of a century he was Director of Lingnan Educational Organization Ltd; he was also Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors for five consecutive years. In playing such co-ordinating roles, Mr Patrick Wu constantly seeks to balance conflicting opinions and strives towards creating solidarity; he upholds the importance of ensuring the steady expansion of the entire Lingnan system. It is precisely because of his integrity that he is praised as someone with high moral stature in the Lingnan community. Whether it is a problem to be solved, or a need of donations appeared, it can be tackled efficiently so long as Mr Patrick Wu is willing to take the lead. In a similar manner, Mr Wu has contributed abundantly to Wah Yan College.

Innumerable obstacles were faced when attempts were made to re-establish Lingnan University in Hong Kong; only after over thirty years of relentless collective effort was the goal attained. Mr Patrick Wu was heavily involved all the way in Lingnan's resurrection. His momentous contribution is simply beyond description.

Mr Patrick Wu is equally supportive of initiatives for the betterment of Hong Kong society. He is involved in a variety of community projects, including those related to medicine, heart and lungs diseases, Scout movement, vocational training, legal services and Chinese Studies organizations. When invited to officiate at the special functions of schools or community organizations (as often happens), Mr Wu hardly ever refuses. Should he be otherwise engaged, he would invite others to take his place, just to obviate the need for organizers to make alternative arrangements. From this one can easily see how dependable he is.

On 10 October 2000, Charles Sturt University in Australia awarded Mr Patrick Wu an honorary doctoral degree in recognition of his help in promoting their educational activities in Hong Kong. This is evidence that Mr Wu's work is not confined to the local community. He is making an impact overseas as well.

Mr Chairman, Mr Patrick Wu has contributed enormously to our society, and he has maintained strong and lasting sentimental attachment to Lingnan organizations. We feel it incumbent upon ourselves to give him due recognition. May I now present Mr Patrick Wu Po-kong to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

## 榮譽社會科學博士

### 伍步剛先生

#### 贊辭

伍步剛先生系出香港銀行世家，克紹箕裘，發揚光大，現任永隆銀行副董事長兼常務董事。

1933年，伍步剛先生的伯父伍宜孫博士在香港創立永隆銀號。不久伍步剛先生的尊翁伍絜宜博士便加入。隨後三十餘年，在政局與社會劇變頻密的環境中，伍氏兄弟運籌帷幄，憑其誠信之服務和不斷求進之精神，不僅使本身業務與時俱進，對香港新興工商業的扶植與拓展亦作出重大的貢獻。永隆於1960年改稱為銀行，象徵另一新時代的開展。

伍步剛先生為紅灰子弟，早歲在司徒拔道嶺南小學就讀二、三、四年級，為寄宿生。這三年的學習與寄宿經驗，是他最愉快的時光，不少畢生好友的交情悉在這段時期建立。修畢四年級後，由於中國政局有變，他知道不能直入廣州的嶺南附中及大學，因此轉往華仁書院接受中學教育，繼而負笈澳洲。六十年代初返港，加入永隆銀行工作，自基層開始，按級而上，與永隆銀行之迅速發展配合而逐步晉升。他憶述伯父輩派其擔任出納員，負責數銀鈔，使他充份理解銀行業務的各項程序，因而鍊就刻苦耐勞的精神。

1976年，伯父伍宜孫博士倦勤，父親伍絜宜博士接掌為董事長，原有之兼任總經理職即由伍步剛先生接任。其後分行迭增，股票上市，服務品類擴大，作業電腦化，種種悉足反映業務蒸蒸日上之發展，均代表步剛先生策劃之功。今日步剛先生與其堂兄親弟們合掌永隆，統籌全局，業績斐然。此外，步剛先生亦積極為業界與工商界服務，歷任香港銀行家會所主席、英國銀行學會香港分會副會長、香港銀行華員會名譽會長、香港銀行學會副會長、香港中華總商會會董、國際商會中國香港商務局執行委員會副主席等等要職。

步剛先生幼承庭訓，知勤儉敦厚之可貴，無奢華之習，且泱泱大度，幽默而樂觀，凡事必躬親力行，更為部屬所傳誦。就事論事，溫文爾雅，謙順和平確是伍氏家族成員共有之表徵。伍氏家族為香港殷實商人之表表者，伍絜宜博士一代至步剛先生及其子女皆以謙

遜殷厚見稱。伍宜孫與伍絜宜三兄弟分別與何家三姊妹結成姻親，一時傳為城中佳話。步剛先生享有最羨煞友輩的美滿家庭，夫人伍趙佩娜女士賢慧淑德，婚後一直相夫教子，一對兒女均成才。

步剛先生對所受嶺南教育刻不忘懷，始終不離不棄。其回饋嶺南不限於屢次之慷慨資助，還不斷獻出寶貴時間和精力，直接參與高層統籌工作，先後擔任嶺南小學校董、嶺南中學校董、嶺南中學校監、嶺南學院校董會及校務會司庫、嶺南大學諮議會成員，服務嶺南教育機構董事迄今長達四份之一世紀之久，其間還連續出任董事會副主席、主席達五年。伍先生之任此等嶺南籌策職位，恆以協調各方意見，凝聚團結力量為己任，使眾莫不以嶺南體系之穩健發展為大前提。由於先生的作風不偏不倚，熱情洋溢，故於嶺南人之大家庭中向以德高望重著稱，凡事得其振臂一呼，不論是對問題之解決抑或徵眾認捐，收效必彰。先生對華仁書院所作之貢獻亦與此同。

嶺南大學在港復校，路途崎嶇，同人奮發三十餘載，終達目標。步剛先生在復校過程之中幾全程參與，厥功至偉。

步剛先生對社會公益同樣熱心支持，參與的領域包括醫學、童軍、劇團、職業培訓、律師服務，國學團體等公益活動，且多出任各有關要職，至親力親為。其誠信感人，由是可見。

今年十月，澳洲查理斯士德大學以步剛先生助其在港推展教育活動，頒予榮譽大學博士學位。此為步剛先生之事功不以香港為限，且遠及海外之明證。

主席先生，伍步剛先生功在社會，情繫嶺南，意恆而彌堅，行久而益顯。斯是事功，洵足表揚，茲恭請主席先生頒予伍步剛先生榮譽社會科學博士學位。