

Dr Li Ning

Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*

Citation

A prominent figure in the global athletic community and a highly successful entrepreneur, Dr Li Ning is not only the founder and current Chairman and Executive Director of the Li-Ning sportswear brand, but also serves as the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Executive Director of Viva Goods Company Limited.

Dr Li began his systematic training in gymnastics at the age of eight and, by the age of ten, had already clinched the National Youth Gymnastics Championship in the floor exercise. In 1980, he was selected for the national gymnastics team. At the 1982 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup, Dr Li achieved an extraordinary feat by winning six gold medals in the all-around, floor exercise, horizontal bar, still rings, pommel horse, and vault categories, making him the athlete with the most gold medals in a single gymnastics competition for China, and earning him the title of “Prince of Gymnastics”. At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, Dr Li further solidified his legacy by winning a total of six medals – three golds, two silvers, and one bronze – making him the most decorated Olympian of the Games. Between 1993 and 2000, he served on the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Technical Committee of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and is now an Honorary Member of the Federation. He was the only Chinese athlete featured in International Sports Press Association's selection of “Top 25 Athletes of the 20th Century”, standing alongside legends such as “King of Football” Pelé, “The Greatest Boxer” Muhammad Ali, and “Flying Man” Michael Jordan. In 2000, Dr Li was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame, becoming the first Chinese gymnastics to receive this honour. In 2019, he was appointed a member of the Chinese Olympic Committee. During the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Dr Li had the distinguished opportunity to light the Olympic cauldron as the final torchbearer.

After his retirement in 1989, Dr Li founded the eponymous brand Li-Ning which specialises in professional sportswear and equipment. Over the past 30 years, he has been dedicated to developing the company's business and made remarkable contributions to the growth of China's sports goods industry. As the first domestic sports brand to sponsor the Asian Games and the Chinese delegation at the Olympic Games, the Li-Ning brand accompanied Chinese athletes at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and the 2004 Athens Olympics. It has also been the long-term partner of the Chinese national shooting, diving, and table tennis teams, aiding numerous athletes in attaining their best performance in elite competitions. In 2025, the Li-Ning brand rejoined forces with the Chinese Olympic Committee as

its official sportswear partner for the period 2025 to 2028, providing award-winning sportswear for the Chinese sports delegation. By further supporting the robust development of sports in China, this collaboration shall showcase the strength of Chinese professional sports brands on the global stage. Additionally, the Li Ning Group is committed to investing in youth sports development, encouraging young people to embrace the joy of sports by sponsoring youth basketball, badminton, table tennis, and football competitions.

Throughout the years, Dr Li has actively supported charitable initiatives through the Li Ning Foundation. Apart from establishing the Chinese Athletes Educational Foundation to fund continuing education and training programmes for both serving and former Chinese athletes and coaches, the foundation has also supported educational development in remote areas in China.

In addition to his achievements in sports and business, Dr Li has received remarkable accolades in the academia. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the Peking University Law School, an Executive MBA from the Guanghua School of Management of Peking University, a Technical Honorary Doctorate from Loughborough University in the UK, a Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa* from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and was conferred an honorary fellowship by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In an interview, Dr Li encourages Lingnan University students to seize the opportunities of the era, particularly the significant advancement in the sports industry within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. He urges students to hone their capabilities and cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit of adventure to meet future challenges and opportunities.

It is evident that Dr Li Ning stands as an international leader in sports, business, and philanthropy. Mr Chairman, in recognition of Dr Li's outstanding contributions to the development of sports worldwide, including his pioneering leadership in business, his deeply-rooted philanthropic spirit, and his unwavering support for the development of Lingnan University, I respectfully present Dr Li Ning for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Mok Kam-ming

李寧博士

榮譽工商管理學博士

贊辭

李寧博士是世界上傑出的運動員之一，亦是一位非常成功的企業家。他是李寧品牌的創立人，現時是集團董事長兼執行主席，亦是非凡領越有限公司之主席、行政總裁及執行董事。

李博士從8歲開始接受系統的體操訓練，10歲就獲全國少年體操錦標賽自由體操冠軍，並於1980年入選國家體操隊。在1982年的第六屆世界盃體操錦標賽上，李博士一人獨得個人全能、自由體操、單杠、吊環、鞍馬、跳馬6枚金牌，成為中國在一次世界體操比賽中獲金牌最多的運動員，由此被譽為「體操王子」。1984年洛杉磯奧運會，李博士又憑藉3金2銀1銅共6枚獎牌的成績成為該屆奧運會獲得獎牌數最多的運動員。1993年至2000年期間，李博士出任國際體操聯合會男子技術委員會委員，現為國際體操聯合會榮譽委員。1999年，國際體育記者協會評選出25名「20世紀最佳運動員」，李博士作為唯一入選的中國運動員，與「球王」比利、「拳王」阿里、「飛人」米高佐敦比肩而立。2000年，李博士入選國際體聯體操名人堂，成為中國體操史上第一人。2019年，李博士還曾獲任命為中國奧委會委員。2008年北京奧運會開幕式上，李博士作為主火炬手點燃聖火。

李博士在1989年退役後，創立同名專業體育用品品牌。過往30多年間，他一直致力發展集團業務，為中國體育用品行業的發展作出卓越貢獻。李博士創立的李寧品牌是最早贊助亞運會以及奧運會中國體育代表團的國內運動品牌，曾經陪伴中國體育代表團征戰1992年巴塞羅那奧運會、1996年亞特蘭大奧運會、2000年悉尼奧運會和2004年雅典奧運會，同時它還是中國國家射擊隊、跳水隊、乒乓球隊的長期合作伙伴，助力眾多運動員在頂級賽事中展現最佳狀態。2025年，李寧品牌再次攜手中國奧委會，成為2025至2028年中國奧委會體育服裝合作伙伴，為中國體育代表團提供領獎裝備，進一步支援中國體育的蓬勃發展，也向世界展現中國專業體育品牌的實力。同時，李寧集團還非常重視青少年體育發展投入，以贊助青少年籃球、羽毛球、乒乓球、足球賽事的方式鼓勵更多的青少年群體享受運動的樂趣。

此外，多年來，李博士透過「李寧基金」積極支持慈善活動，並為現役及退役中國運動員及教練成立「中國運動員教育基金」，提供學習進修及培訓資助，並支持中國偏遠地區的教育發展。

李博士不僅於體育、商業表現出色，學界成就亦相當超卓。他持有北京大學法學院法律學士學位、北京大學光華管理學院行政人員工商管理碩士學位、英國拉夫堡大學技術榮譽博士學位、香港理工大學榮譽人文學博士學位及香港科技大學榮譽院士。李博士在訪談中勉勵嶺南大學學生，應緊抓時代機遇，尤其是粵港澳大灣區體育產業蓬勃發展的契機。他鼓勵同學們不斷提升自身能力，同時培養進取的冒險精神，以迎接未來的挑戰與機遇。

李寧博士在運動、商業及公益事業等領域，堪稱國際性領袖。主席先生，為表彰李博士對世界體育發展的卓越貢獻，包括他在商業領域的開創性領導、深入人心的公益精神，以及對嶺南大學發展的鼎力支持，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽工商管理學博士學位予李寧博士。

贊辭由莫鑑明教授撰寫及宣讀