

Dr Winnie Ko Pui-shuen, BBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Dr Winnie Ko Pui-shuen was born in Shantou, Guangdong. At the age of 17, she left her hometown for Hong Kong and followed in the footsteps of her father and brothers by entering the textile and silk industry. Swiftly emerging as a young entrepreneur, Dr Ko responded to the call for China to reform and open up in the early 1980s, embracing the belief that “a prosperous nation is every citizen’s responsibility”. Guided by this principle, she returned to the Shantou Special Economic Zone to make capital investments in clothing manufacturing facilities, positioning herself as a trailblazer in her adoption of China’s “bringing in” and “going out” economic development strategy.

Leveraging her experience in both Hong Kong and Shantou, Dr Ko facilitated the integration of advanced production technologies within factories across Guangdong Province. Concurrently, she opened national textile trade channels and exported ready-to-wear made-in-China apparel to Europe and America with great success. In 1993, Dr Ko expanded her clothing business to Shenyang in northeastern China. During her time there, she came across a local clothing market in Wu’ai Street, where roadside stalls were operated by laid-off workers who had to endure the harsh northeastern cold, selling their goods from makeshift shelters and open streets. Moved by their circumstances, Dr Ko made an unwavering commitment to establish an indoor marketplace for these traders. In 1997, the Shenyang Wu’ai Garments Town was completed, the largest wholesale and retail clothing market in Northeast China. This substantial investment not only earned her recognition and recompense but also enhanced the lives of countless local small business proprietors. Dr Ko is warmly revered by many Shenyang residents, who affectionately refer to her as “Xiaojie” (the lady).

Dr Ko serves as the Chairman of Kingrich Asia Holdings Limited. While she is a titan in the industrial and real estate sectors, her reputation is even more pronounced in the realm of enthusiastic philanthropy and benevolence. She supports cultural initiatives such as academic research on the works of the late Jao Tsung-I, investigation into Chaoshan history and culture, as well as the preservation of Manchu cultural heritage. She also supports academic institutions, including Lingnan University, facilitating student exchanges, digital library enhancements, and in general liberal arts education. Dr Ko has also spearheaded the construction of 43 temples across Mainland China and Hong Kong, and has sponsored research and promotion of Tang Dynasty-style garden culture at Hong Kong's Nan Lian Garden.

Dr Ko embodies modesty and practicality. She wears a warm and radiant smile wherever she goes, even with her myriad responsibilities — expressing her zest for life and optimistic disposition. Her many years of dedication to her career and her contribution to public welfare have garnered her widespread recognition and acclaim. She is a recipient of the World Outstanding Chinese Award and stands among the distinguished 25 individuals honoured to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China. In 2007, she received an honorary doctorate from the Sinte Gleska University in California, US. Subsequently, she was granted honorary fellowships by The Open University of Hong Kong (now Hong Kong Metropolitan University) and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Recognising her impact on Hong Kong society, the Hong Kong SAR Government awarded her the Bronze Bauhinia Star and appointed her as a Justice of the Peace.

As a native of Chaoshan, Dr Ko has been recognised for her contributions to her hometown. She has held key positions such as the Chief President of the Federation of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community Organizations. In 2014, she was elected Vice-President of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce, becoming the first female vice-president in the chamber's 93-year history. In 2023, she was appointed President of the Federation of Hong Kong Shantou Community Organizations, becoming the first Teochew woman to found and lead a Chaoshan community organisation in Hong Kong. Additionally, she is the Honorary President of the Federation of Hong Kong Guangdong Community Organizations. Furthermore, she is a member of the 11th and 12th Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and a member of the 13th and 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Dr Ko's unwavering dedication to philanthropy and her selfless commitment to helping others have significantly enriched Hong Kong's prosperity and the welfare of her home country, establishing her as an outstanding figure among women in Hong Kong. Mr Deputy Chairman, I humbly present Dr Winnie Ko Pui-shuen for the conferment of Lingnan University's honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Lau Chi-pang

高佩璇博士，BBS，JP

榮譽院士

贊辭

高佩璇博士生於廣東汕頭，年方十七離鄉赴港，追隨父兄投身紡織及絲綢行業，迅即成為業界的青年實業家。上世紀八十年代初，高博士響應國家改革開放的號召，本著「國家興旺，匹夫有責」的信念，率先回到汕頭經濟特區投資建廠製造成衣；是國家「引進來，走出去」經濟發展策略的先行者。

高博士本著在香港和汕頭的成功經驗，陸續在廣東省協助工廠引入先進生產技術，同時開拓全國紡織品貿易網絡，將內地廠商生產的成衣出口歐美，取得重大成功。1993年，高博士的服裝業務延伸至遠在東北的瀋陽；她發現市內的五愛街服裝市場遍布下崗工人經營的路邊攤檔；檔主往往要忍受東北的嚴寒，在簡陋的棚子和露天的街頭叫賣，十分艱苦。高博士於是立下宏願，要為這裡的商戶建造一個全天候的商場。1997年，五愛市場服裝城落成，成為東北最大規模的專業服裝批發及零售市場。這項重大投資不但為她贏得盛譽和回報，也為當地無數的個體業戶帶來富足的生活。許多瀋陽市民由衷感激高博士，一直尊稱她為「小姐」。

高博士是香港意得集團有限公司的主席。她是工業界和地產界的翹楚，但更為人所知的是她熱心公益，助人無數。她資助的文化項目有饒宗頤學術研究、潮汕歷史文化研究、滿族文化搶救等；亦捐助包括本校在內的多所大學發展學生交流、數碼書庫、博雅教育等。此外，高博士曾經在內地及香港捐助參與修建43座寺廟；香港的南蓮園池也得到她的資助，開展唐式庭園文化的研究和推廣。

高博士為人謙厚務實，縱使日理萬機，臉上總掛著親切燦爛的笑容，盡顯她熱愛生活和樂天知命的性格。她在事業和公益上的多年努力和貢獻得到廣泛的認同和表揚。她是世界傑出華人，也是香港回歸25年的25位傑出人士之一。早於2007年，她獲美國加州聖格拉斯加大學授予榮譽博士銜；其後再獲香港公開大學(現為香港都會大學)、香港科技大學頒授榮譽大學院士銜。為表揚高博士對香港社會作出的貢獻，香港特區政府亦頒授其銅紫荊星章，並委任她為太平紳士。

作為潮籍人士，高博士對家鄉的奉獻也得到同鄉認同，並獲委香港潮屬社團總會首席會長等多項要職；2014年，高博士當選香港潮州商會副會長，成為這個在香港商界舉足輕重的老牌商會創立93年以來第一位女副會長；2023年，高博士榮任香港汕頭社團總會主席，這是本港潮籍婦女創建及領導潮汕同鄉團體的第一人，可見她在同鄉中的超然地位。此外，她亦擔任香港廣東社團總會永遠名譽會長、政協黑龍江省第十一、十二屆常委，以及十三、十四屆全國政協委員。

高佩璇博士熱心公益，以助人為己任；多年來致力貢獻香港、造福鄉梓，是香港婦女界的楷模。副主席先生，本人謹恭請閣下頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜予高佩璇博士。

贊辭由劉智鵬教授撰寫及宣讀