

The Hon Ip Kwok-him, GBM, GBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Citation

The Honourable Ip Kwok-him, GBM, GBS, JP, is a former member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China. He was born and grew up in Hong Kong, and his family was originally from Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Mr Ip attended Hon Wah College in Hong Kong and later graduated from South China Normal University with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. After graduating, he returned to Hon Wah College, where he taught for almost 20 years. This academic background laid the foundation for his later involvement in community and political affairs.

Mr Ip entered politics in the 1980s, engaging in community service with his partners in the Central and Western District. In 1991, he was elected as a Central and Western District Councillor, embarking on a decades-long and eventful career in District Council service. He maintained long-term influence in the Central and Western District. Although he briefly stepped away in 2003, he returned to the District Council in January 2008.

In 1992, Mr Ip co-founded the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (later renamed the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, acronym DAB), a flagship patriotic and pro-Beijing political party that aimed to foster regional stability and development. He served as DAB vice-chairman from 1998 to 2009, establishing himself as a key figure in politics in the HKSAR, where his experience as a party leader played a key role in shaping much of the DAB's early organisational development.

Mr Ip was first elected to the Legislative Council in 1995, representing the Election Committee constituency in the final colonial legislature. During the transition period of the 1997 handover, he served on the Provisional Legislative Council from 1996 to 1998, which operated to uphold the "One Country, Two Systems" principle at this critical juncture in the HKSAR's history.

During his legislative tenure, he was a member of the main public bodies, including the Urban Renewal Authority, and became known for his work organising and uniting the pro-establishment camp. From 2012 to 2016, Mr Ip was the coordinator among 43 pro-establishment lawmakers.

Mr Ip is a veteran of the multi-level political arena. In addition to his long-term service in the District Council, he has served as a HKSAR Deputy to the National People's Congress for four consecutive terms (10th–13th), underscoring his central role not only in local governance but

also as a bridge between the HKSAR and the central government. In March 2016, Mr Ip was appointed a non-official member of the Executive Council, where his extensive legislative experience and command of public affairs were valuable assets in policy discussions and in advising the government.

Mr Ip often reflects on the profound wisdom imparted by his father, a migrant from the Chinese Mainland who led a humble yet dignified life. His father's dedication to his family and unwavering patriotism towards China were formative influences on Mr Ip's upbringing, and this commitment to his roots instilled in him a work ethic, integrity, and a deep sense of national pride. It was his father who shaped Mr Ip's perspective as both an educator and a politician, persuading him to promote a curriculum that emphasises the importance of understanding China's rich history and cultural heritage.

Besides his remarkable contributions in the political arena, Mr Ip has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the education sector. He has made valuable contributions across multiple levels of the educational sector. For instance, Mr Ip is Chairman of the Hon Wah Education Organisation, the School Superintendent of H.K.T.A. Shun Yeung Primary School, and has previously served as a Council member of the University of Hong Kong. Mr Ip views education as a crucial pathway for cultivating a sense of identity and belonging among young people. He firmly believes that an informed grasp of China's history, culture, and values forms the cornerstone of fostering patriotism. He also advocates that education should balance academic knowledge, national pride, and social responsibility. He hopes that future students will cherish tradition and become responsible citizens who are enthusiastic about serving their communities and contributing to the country. Mr Ip also promotes a vision where future generations should not only know history but also take pride in it, thereby strengthening their profound connection with their motherland.

As an educator, Mr Ip has often emphasised the importance of teacher-student relationships. He encourages teachers not only to share knowledge but also to embody the principles of patriotism and dedication to public service, thereby inspiring students to actively participate in social development for the betterment of society. He believes that when teachers act as guides and cultivators of national pride, they can instil a similar enthusiasm in their students. His commitment to education and nationalism is evident in his ongoing advocacy for policies that promote a

comprehensive understanding of China, and this mission is integral not only to individual development but also to the broader goal of national unity.

Mr Ip has consistently been a leading advocate for progressive policies in the HKSAR political infrastructure, including the restructuring of the electoral system, which has reshaped the territory's political landscape. Throughout his illustrious political career, he has built a reputation for strong leadership, organisational skills, unwavering party loyalty, and the ability to navigate complex political negotiations. His career encapsulates the historical transition of Hong Kong back to Chinese sovereignty, and as a co-founder of the DAB and a long-serving politician, he has played a crucial part in formulating and implementing the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. His resilience in the face of political challenges, long-standing commitment to public service, and effective party leadership make him an icon in Hong Kong's political history.

Mr Ip's contributions have been recognised with numerous prestigious awards. In addition to being Justice of the Peace (JP), he received the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in 2004 and the Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM) in 2017, the highest honour conferred by the HKSAR. Yet, beyond these many accolades, he is admired for his integrity, his advocacy for education, and his belief that patriotism and civic responsibility are essential to Hong Kong's future.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished leadership, his pivotal role in HKSAR's political development, and his lifelong dedication to serving the community, I humbly present the Honourable Ip Kwok-him for the conferment of an honorary fellow of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Frankie Lam

葉國謙先生，大紫荊勳賢，GBS, JP

榮譽院士

贊辭

葉國謙先生為中華人民共和國香港特別行政區（香港特區）前行政會議成員及立法會議員。葉先生祖籍廣東省廣州市，生於香港。他先後就讀於香港漢華中學及廣東省華南師範大學，獲地理學文學士學位，畢業後回母校漢華中學任教近二十載，這段教育經歷為他日後投身社區及政務工作奠定根基。

葉先生於1980年代中後期踏足政壇，並於中西區與伙伴參與社區服務。1991年，他成功當選中西區區議員，開啟長達數十年、歷經風雨的區議會服務生涯。此後，他長期在中西區保持影響力，雖然2003年短暫離開，但2008年1月再度回歸區議會。

1992年，葉先生參與創立民主建港聯盟（後改稱「民主建港協進聯盟」，簡稱「民建聯」），這個旗艦級愛國愛港政黨以促進地區穩定發展為宗旨。1998至2009年期間，他擔任民建聯副主席，成為香港特區政壇關鍵人物，其政黨領導經驗對民建聯早期組織建設貢獻良多。

葉先生於1995年首度當選立法局議員，在殖民時期末屆立法局中代表選舉委員會界別。1997年政權交接過渡期，他於1996至1998年間出任臨時立法會議員，在香港歷史關鍵時刻堅守「一國兩制」原則。

在立法會任期內，他兼任市區重建局等主要公共機構成員，並以團結建制派陣營的組織工作著稱，於2012至2016年間，當時的葉議員擔任四十三位建制派立法會議員的「班長」。

葉先生是跨層級政壇宿將。除長期服務區議會外，他更連續四屆（第十至十三屆）當選香港特區全國人大代表，不僅在地方治理層面舉足輕重，更成為特區與中央的重要溝通橋樑。2016年3月，他獲委任為行政會議非官守議員，以其豐富的立法經驗與公共事務洞察力，為政策討論和政府建言獻策。

葉先生常憶述父親——他是一位來自內地的移民，即使生活清貧但品格高尚，並且充滿人生智慧。父親對家庭的奉獻與對祖國堅定不移的熱情，塑造了葉先生的成長軌跡。這種扎根傳統的信念培育出他的勤勉作風、正直品格及深厚家國情懷。正是父親影響了葉先生兼具教育者與政治家的雙重視角，說服他推動重視中國歷史文化傳承的課程體系。

除了他在政治上的傑出貢獻，葉先生對教育界的貢獻卓越。他為不同層次的教育領域作出了寶貴的貢獻。例如，他現任漢華教育機構主席，香港道教聯合會純陽小學校監，及曾任香港大學校董等等。葉先生視教育為培育青年身份認同與歸屬感的重要途徑。他深信，對中國歷史文化與價值觀的深刻認知，是培養愛國情懷的基石。他提倡教育應兼顧學術知識、民族自豪感與社會責任感。他期望未來學子能珍視傳統，成為熱心服務社區又能貢獻國家的有擔當公民。透過孜孜不倦的努力，葉先生期盼讓後輩不僅知曉歷史，更以史為榮，強化與祖國的血脈連結。

作為教育家，葉先生常強調師生關係的重要性。他鼓勵教師不僅傳授知識，更應體現愛國精神與奉獻情操，以言傳身教啟發學子積極參與社會建設。他認為，當教師成為國家認同的引導者時，便能將同樣的熱忱灌注於學生心中。他對教育與民族主義的執著，體現於長期倡導深化國情認知的教育政策，並視此使命不僅關乎個人成長，更繫於民族團結的宏大目標。

葉先生持續推動香港特區政制改革，包括重塑本地政治格局的選舉制度改革。在其輝煌的政治生涯中，他以卓越領導力、組織才能、堅定政黨忠誠及政治協調能力著稱。其從政歷程見證香港回歸祖國的歷史轉折，作為民建聯創黨元老與資深政治家，他在「一國兩制」原則的實踐中扮演關鍵角色。面對政治挑戰時展現的韌性、長期服務公眾的承諾與高效政黨領導，使他成為香港政治史上的標誌人物。

葉先生的貢獻獲得多項殊榮的肯定：除了是太平紳士，他於2004年獲授金紫荊星章和2017年榮獲香港特區最高榮譽的大紫荊勳章。然而，超越這些榮譽的，是他廉潔自守、推動教育發展的堅持，以及對愛國情懷與公民責任乃香港未來基石的信奉。

主席先生，為表彰葉國謙先生的卓越領導、對中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政治發展的關鍵貢獻，以及其畢生服務社群的奉獻精神，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜予葉國謙先生。

贊辭由林敬新教授撰寫及宣讀