

Mr Irons Sze, GBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Irons Sze is a distinguished and highly decorated business leader with a deep allegiance to our country and Hong Kong, who has made an invaluable contribution to public affairs.

Mr Sze's life story is our country's modern history. Once a young entrepreneur taking his first steps in business, he is now, decades later, a leader shouldering significant social responsibilities. Throughout his life, he has combined personal growth with public growth, responding to the needs of the nation by providing expertise where it was needed. His experience encapsulates how his generation of Hong Kong entrepreneurs has facilitated the rise of our motherland, and it embodies the Lion Rock Spirit — perseverance, mutual support, and collective endeavour.

In the 1980s, after completing his studies at the University of Wisconsin, Mr Sze returned to Hong Kong and joined his family's international textile trading business, Hang Tung Resources Holding Limited. He began as an apprentice and immersed himself in every aspect of the business, typing countless contracts and travelling countless routes through the motherland. At this early stage of the country's reform and opening-up, when Hong Kong businessmen served as an important bridge connecting the Chinese Mainland (the Mainland) with the world, Mr Sze, who was already upholding a family tradition of patriotism, actively assisted Mainland cities in establishing overseas trade networks and securing essential supplies. This pioneering journey was a continuation and deepening of that fundamental credo.

In the 1990s, Mr Sze was appointed a member of the All-China Youth Federation. With Hong Kong's return and inclusion in national policy under the Ninth Five-Year Plan, his business endeavours and public engagement became increasingly connected with the nation's trajectory. Since then, whether making field visits to various provinces, cities, and regions, or leading the Hong Kong basketball team at the Beijing Asian Games, or supporting the Mainland's economic rise, or fostering mutual understanding and exchanges between the country and the world, he has consistently and decisively helped reach important national milestones.

Entering the new century, Mr Sze extended his influence beyond the business sector into education, industry, and public policy. From 2008 to 2013, in fact, he served as a member of the Council and an ex-officio member of the Court of Lingnan University. He shares Lingnan's commitment to liberal arts education, and has provided steadfast support for the University's expansion, assisted in fundraising, and offered valuable advice for long-term development. Mr Sze is devoted to nurturing the younger generation. He has encouraged students to link their personal aspirations to the advancement of the nation. In recognition of his substantial contributions to Lingnan University, the University conferred upon him the title of Honorary Court Member in 2014.

Meanwhile, Mr Sze went from strength to strength as a business leader. He previously served as President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, and is currently its Permanent Honorary President. He also served on the Labour Advisory Board. He was instrumental

in the implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), and has strongly supported the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Economic and trade cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland has moved from connectivity towards deeper integration, and Mr Sze has been both a participant and an important driving force, promoting greater complementarity and collaboration between the two. Since 2013, he has served three consecutive terms as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) (now as a member of its Standing Committee) and as President of the HKCPPCC (Provincial) Members Association, assuming important responsibilities in reinforcing exchanges and collaboration between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and translating his belief in personal and national development into concrete action. He is, last but not least, a Member of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the CPPCC and Convenor of its Hong Kong Members, President of the Federation of Hong Kong Beijing Organisations, and Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Friends of Hong Kong Association.

Today, the global landscape is undergoing a profound transformation. In response, the HKSAR Government has formulated its first local Five-Year Plan, aligning with the National 15th Five-Year Plan. According to the plan, the civic goal is not just integration into the nation but facilitation of its development by playing to its strengths. Mr Sze's lifetime reflects this broader transformation. From his early endeavours to open up the Mainland market to his enthusiasm for greater integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland, he has consistently responded to pressing needs, and pledged his loyalty to both the country and Hong Kong. That is why Mr Sze was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government in 2025.

The story of Mr Sze's life is a true expression of Hong Kong people advancing alongside their Chinese countrymen. Mr Sze has inherited a family tradition of national service, remaining steadfast in his values and embracing responsibility in changing times. His actions show that the Lion Rock Spirit is not merely about perseverance and mutual support, but also about recognising opportunities and adapting. As the ancient Chinese text *Lüshi Chunqiu* observes, "A stone may be broken, but its hardness cannot be withdrawn; cinnabar may be ground, but its redness cannot be removed." While the paths and approaches through which one serves the nation may change, the obligation to the country and Hong Kong, passed down through generations, remains unwavering.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to furthering business prosperity, supporting higher education, and fostering closer integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland, I respectfully present Mr Irons Sze for the conferment of an honorary fellowship of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Wei Lai

施榮懷先生，GBS, JP

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贊辭

施榮懷先生現任全國政協常委，北京市政協常委、港區召集人，香港北京社團總會會長，香港友好協進會副會長兼秘書長，是享譽商界、卓有建樹的愛國愛港領袖。

施先生的家族傳承與人生征途，始終與國家發展緊緊相連。數十年間，由初涉商海的青年才俊，成長為勇擔社會重任的領袖，他堅持將個人發展融入國家發展大局，因應時代所需，持續貢獻所長。施先生的經歷，正是一代香港企業家與祖國同心成長的生動縮影，亦是「自強不息、同舟共濟」的獅子山精神，伴隨國家向前邁進的真實寫照。

二十世紀八十年代，施先生於美國威斯康辛大學學成歸來，加入恆通資源集團，參與家族的紡織品國際貿易業務。他甘當學徒，事必躬親，用雙手敲打出無數商業合約，也用腳步丈量了祖國的大江南北。改革開放之初，香港商人擔當連繫內地與世界的重要橋樑。施先生積極協助內地城市搭建海外經貿網絡、引進所需物資，親身參與這段開拓歷程。他自幼深受家風薰陶，愛國愛港之情早已植根於心，這段歲月正是這份家國情懷的踐行與深化。

九十年代，施先生以香港青年企業家身份獲委任為全國青聯委員，積極投身國家深化改革開放的浪潮。伴隨香港回歸祖國，國家「九五」規劃首次納入香港發展議題，施先生的事業與社會參與，與國家發展脈動愈發緊密。無論是深入內地不同省市地區考察，還是率領香港籃球隊出戰北京亞運；無論是支持內地經濟建設，還是促進國家與世界的交流互信，在國家與香港發展的重要節點，他皆積極參與，務實奉獻。

邁入新世紀，施先生跨出商業領域，在教育、工商及公共政策層面拓展影響力。2008年至2013年，他出任嶺南大學校董會及諮議會成員，鼎力支持大學建設，協助籌募資源，為嶺南大學長遠發展獻策獻力。施先生認同嶺大博雅教育理念，關懷青年培育，對大學發展傾注心力。他寄語青年學生，應將個人發展融入國家發展。2014年，大學授予施先生榮譽諮議會成員榮銜，以表彰其對嶺南大學的卓著貢獻。

施先生長年服務香港工商界，曾任香港中華廠商聯合會會長，現任永遠名譽會長，亦積極參與勞工顧問委員會等公共事務。他大力推動《內地與香港關於建立更緊密經貿關係的安排》（CEPA）落地實施，積極支持粵港澳大灣區建設。香港與內地經貿合作

關係由經貿聯繫邁向深度融合，施先生既是親歷者，亦是重要推動者，致力推動兩地優勢互補、協同發展。2013年起，施先生連續三屆當選全國政協委員，曾任港區省級政協委員聯誼會會長，在促進香港與內地交流協作上承擔重大使命，實踐將個人發展融入國家大局的信念。

當今世界格局深刻演變，香港亦正迎來新的發展階段。香港特別行政區政府制訂香港首個本地五年規劃，積極對接國家「十五五」規劃。香港的角色，正由「融入國家發展大局」，邁向「以香港所長服務國家所需」的新階段。施先生的歷程亦與此同頻，從早年開拓內地市場，到持續推動香港與內地深度融合，他順應時代所需，不斷拓展服務國家與香港的層次。2025年，香港特別行政區政府向他頒授金紫荊星章，肯定其多年來為國家、香港發展作出的重大貢獻。

施先生的人生道路，正是香港同胞與祖國並肩前行的真實寫照。其父輩早已肩負服務國家的使命，施先生亦繼承這份家國傳統，在時代的浪潮中固守初心、勇於擔當。觀其行事，可見獅子山精神不止於自強互助，更在審時度勢、把握機遇。石可破也，而不可奪堅；丹可磨也，而不可奪赤。時移世易，服務國家的方式與路徑有所不同，但愛國愛港、薪火相傳的信念始終不渝。

主席先生，為表彰施榮懷先生推動工商繁榮、支持高等教育，以及促進香港與內地融合發展的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜予施榮懷先生。

贊辭由魏銖教授撰寫及宣讀