

Mr Ma Fung-kwok, GBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Ma Fung-kwok is a deeply respected and exceptionally accomplished leader who is guided by a Hong Kong-style pragmatic, pioneering spirit as well as his great love for Chinese culture and steadfast patriotic beliefs. His life has ranged from the film industry to public service, where he has consistently made regular outstanding and far-reaching contributions to Hong Kong's cultural and creative industries, including their integration into the overall national development.

Although Mr Ma graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the Hong Kong Polytechnic (now The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), his passion was always the cinema. In the 1970s, he started to work at the Feng Huang (Phoenix) Motion Picture Co., a pioneer of Hong Kong cinema, and later became part of the management team at the Sil-Metropole Organisation Ltd., where he introduced Chinese-language cinema — particularly Chinese kung-fu films — to a global audience. Classics he helped champion, such as *The Shaolin Temple*, were early collaborations between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland (the Mainland), successfully promoting the Chinese martial arts culture to the world.

However, Mr Ma's vision was always fixed on a goal far beyond mere commercial success. He once remarked, "I firmly believe that the social mission of cinema is to touch people's hearts". He pursued stories of "truth, goodness, and beauty" that reflect the times and provoke thought. Among the classics, he places particular value on *The Story of Qiu Ju* for giving international audiences a glimpse of simple and unadorned life in the Mainland, and praises *I Have a Date with Spring* for its depiction of the late-1960s social turbulence in Hong Kong. In the 1980s and 1990s, he helped set up the Hong Kong Motion Picture Industry Association to safeguard the interests of film-makers. Crucially, he initiated a film registration and copyright certification system, initially in Hong Kong but later nationally, a legal foundation for the protection of intellectual property. His foresight would benefit the entire sector.

Mr Ma began putting his unrivalled experience to public good prior to Hong Kong's return to China. At the time, he expressed his enthusiasm for the arts and culture through policy formulation and better resource coordination. Pre-eminent positions he has held include Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Chairman of the Hong Kong Film Development Council, Board Member of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, and Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He has demonstrated bold leadership, helping to build Hong Kong into Asia's creative hub and stimulate the professional growth of its cultural sector worldwide with outstanding design, resource allocation, talent cultivation, and international exchanges.

Mr Ma has also served as a Legislative Council Member of the HKSAR, representing the Election Committee and the Sports, Performing Arts, Culture and Publication functional constituency, and as a HKSAR delegate to the National People's Congress, where he is currently the Head of the HKSAR Delegation. He remains an unwavering advocate for the cultural and creative industries, promoting closer cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong's film and television industries so as to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities of the Guangdong-

Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to enhance industrial synergy and knowledge sharing. Having advocated the modernisation of Hong Kong's copyright legislation for years, he guided the Copyright (Amendment) Bill through the Legislative Council. Passed in 2022, the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance has reinforced the foundation for copyright protection in the digital era. In recognition of Mr Ma's decades of distinguished service, he was awarded the Silver and Gold Bauhinia Stars by the HKSAR Government in 2004 and 2020 respectively.

His community service is deeply embedded in his patriotism, and as President of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles Hong Kong Member Association, he has worked hard to unite Hong Kong's literary and arts community, promote cross-boundary cultural exchanges, and strengthen national cultural soft power. His life has taken an unexpected turn in recent years: polar research. He has conducted field expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic and liaised with national ministries and research bodies to integrate Hong Kong into the nation's polar programme.

In 2024, as Chairman of the Organising Committee for the visit of Xuelong 2 (Snow Dragon 2, the nation's first domestically built Antarctic research icebreaker) to Hong Kong, Mr Ma effectively planned and oversaw the historic welcome, showing Hong Kong citizens the achievements of the national polar expeditions close-up, and sparking immense public interest and pride towards both polar and national scientific research, particularly among young people. Subsequently, he founded the China HK Polar Regions Ocean Innovative Technology Centre and served as its Chairman, building public awareness of national polar scientific research. Six Hong Kong scientists joined the nation's Antarctic expedition team in 2024, a new chapter in Hong Kong's participation in national polar expeditions. This initiative has opened up prospects for Hong Kong's innovation and technology and is creating a direct connection between its future and the nation's frontier scientific exploration.

A man of culture and action, Mr Ma is a dedicated officeholder who came from a professional career into public administration. He is a visionary leader who is devoted to his country. He has built on his experience in various ways: from film distribution, he went on to put in place industry standards; from cultural management, he moved on to active participation in social governance, and, most recently, to national polar research. His generous and continuing contributions are a testament to his great love of learning and his patriotism. Mr Ma encourages Lingnan students to dare to aspire, holding fast to their earliest resolutions to serve society and build a career. He urges them to seize opportunities, broaden their horizons, and learn about international trends — especially recent developments in technology, energy, and space — and to understand every aspect of the country.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to Hong Kong's cultural and creative industries, the advancement of public affairs, cultural exchange between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and national scientific research, I respectfully present Mr Ma Fung-kwok for the conferment of an honorary fellowship of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Mok Kam-ming

馬逢國先生，GBS, JP

榮譽院士

贊辭

馬逢國先生是香港社會一位德高望重、建樹非凡的領袖人物。他的人生軌跡，由光影藝術的殿堂延伸至公共服務的領域，數十年如一日，以深厚的文化情懷、堅定的愛國信念和務實的開拓精神，為香港文化藝術創意產業的繁榮發展，為香港積極融入國家發展大局，作出了卓越而深遠的貢獻。

馬先生早年畢業於香港理工學院（現香港理工大學）土木工程學系，卻將滿腔熱忱投向了電影藝術事業。於上世紀七十年代，他在香港電影先驅鳳凰影業起步，其後成為銀都機構有限公司的核心管理層，親身參與並推動了華語電影，尤其是中國功夫電影走向世界的輝煌歷程。他參與推動的《少林寺》等經典之作，不僅是早期香港與內地合作的典範，更將中國功夫文化推廣至全球。

然而，馬先生的目光從不止步於商業成功。正如他說：

「我深信電影的社會使命，是要觸動人心。」

他深信電影承載著追求「真、善、美」的社會使命，反映時代，推動思考。眾多經典當中，他特別看重《秋菊打官司》讓各地觀眾窺見內地純樸無華的生活，也讚賞《我和春天有個約會》對香港1960年代末的動盪不安的側寫。及至八、九十年代，他積極參與創立香港影業協會，致力保障從業者權益；更關鍵的是，他全力推動在香港建立電影註冊和版權認證制度，並促使其獲得國家層面的認可與採納，為華語電影產業的健康發展與知識產權保護奠定了至關重要的法律基礎。其遠見卓識，惠及整個行業。

憑藉在業界的深厚資歷與公信力，馬先生自香港回歸前已深入地參與公共事務，將其對文化藝術的熱愛轉化為系統性的政策推動與資源整合。他歷任香港藝術發展局主席、香港電影發展局主席、西九文化區管理局董事局成員、香港演藝學院校董會副主席等要職。在這些關鍵崗位上，他高瞻遠矚，致力於將香港打造成為亞洲創意樞紐，從頂層設計、資源分配、人才培養到國際交流，全方位推動香港文化藝術的專業化、國際化發展。

與此同時，馬先生長期擔任香港特別行政區立法會議員（選舉委員會界別和體育、演藝、文化及出版界功能界別），並連續擔任多屆港區全國人大代表，現為港區代表團團長。在立法與議政崗位上，他始終是文化創意產業堅定的代言人和推動者。他積極參與促成香港與內地影視界的緊密合作，倡議把握粵港澳大灣區建設的歷史機遇，加強產業協同與人才交流。尤其值得一提的是，他長期不懈推動香港版權法例的現代化，在2022年親自擔任《版權（修訂）條例草案》法案委員會主席，成功帶領委員會完成審

議，條例最終獲立法會三讀通過，為香港在數碼時代加強版權保護奠定重要基礎。因其在業界數十年的傑出貢獻，他先後於2004年及2020年獲香港特別行政區政府頒授銀紫荊星章及金紫荊星章。

馬先生的公共服務，深深植根於愛國愛港的情懷。他現任中國文學藝術界聯合會香港會員總會會長，致力於團結香港文藝界，促進兩地文化交流，增強國家文化軟實力。近年來，他更將這份熱忱投向了更為宏闊的領域——國家極地事業。他親赴南北極考察，積極奔走於國家相關部委與科研機構，全力推動香港融入國家極地發展戰略。

2024年，他擔任「雪龍2」號（國家第一艘自主建造的極地科學考察破冰船）訪港籌備委員會主席，成功策劃並執行了歷史性的歡迎活動，讓香港市民得以近距離感受國家極地科考的偉大成就，極大地激發了社會，尤其是青年一代對極地科學與國家科研的興趣與自豪感。其後，他牽頭成立「中國香港極地海洋創科中心」並擔任主席，搭建起連接國家極地科考與香港社會認知、科研參與之間的橋樑。2024年國家南極考察隊首次迎來六位香港科學家隨隊出征，正式開啟了香港參與國家極地事業的新篇章。這項工作，不僅拓展了香港創科發展的疆界，更是將香港的命運與國家前沿科學探索緊密相連的生動實踐。

綜觀馬先生的人生歷程，他是一位由文化沃土中成長起來的實幹家，一位由專業領域邁向公共服務的奉獻者，更是一位胸懷家國、與時俱進的引路人。他從電影發行做起，逐步建構產業規範；從文化管理出發，積極參與社會治理；更在近年投身國家極地科考推廣，展現了永不枯竭的學習熱情與報效家國的赤子之心。他的人生，完美詮釋了何謂「堅實而恆久的貢獻」。在訪談中，馬先生鼓勵嶺大學生要「立志」，立定志向在不同崗位亦可以秉持初心服務社會，建立個人事業。他又勉勵學生要抓緊機遇，開闊眼界，了解國際形勢，尤其要關注近年在科技、能源和太空的發展，透過交流、聯繫，去了解國家。

主席先生，為表彰馬逢國先生對香港文化創意產業發展、公共事務推進，以及對促進香港與內地文化交流、支持國家科研事業所作出的非凡貢獻，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜予馬逢國先生。

贊辭由莫鑑明教授撰寫及宣讀