

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Mr LEE Tak-lun William

According to the *Guide* chapter in *Shuo Yuan* by Liu Xiang of the Western Han Dynasty, when one practises virtue, happiness and success will come naturally. This is best exemplified in the Lee's family from Ningbo, Zhejiang, members of which have long devoted themselves to charitable work for the public good. Dr Lee Woo-sing and his son, Mr William Lee Tak-lun, have made repeated donations to the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to help groom generations of talent for society. Mr William Lee's daughter, Ms Rosa Lee Wai-tsang and son, Mr Robert Lee Wai-wang, have followed in their family's footsteps as generous benefactors to CUHK. The Lees have passed down a legacy of philanthropy and virtue from generation to generation, and their well-known success in the financial sector bears witness to the Chinese belief that a family that accumulates goodness is sure to have prosperity and happiness.

A leading figure in Hong Kong's securities sector, Mr Lee came to Hong Kong from Shanghai at a young age, and went on to found the Grand Finance Group in 1989. In 2001, the Group's securities and futures outfit merged with Shun Loong Group. Mr Lee served as Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the new group, which further expanded its business. In 2003, Shun Loong Group was acquired by the wealthiest magnate in China at the time. Soon afterwards, Mr Lee acquired and restructured Winlink Securities, renaming the company to Grand Investment Securities, and later successfully listed a subsidiary of the Grand Finance Group on the Main Board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. The Grand Finance Group specialises in financial services and investment management across the Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas markets, covering finance, retail, real estate and information technology. The Group offers a comprehensive product range and enjoys widespread goodwill in the sector. Throughout his 40 years of experience in securities and financial services, Mr Lee has particularly excelled at securities, futures, bullion, foreign exchange and fund management. His vision

and astuteness ensure his decisions and judgments are always the best. His illustrious professional career was accompanied by numerous leadership appointments to influential financial organisations. During his tenure as President of the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society (CGSE), Mr Lee spearheaded the establishment of Hong Kong's first Electronic Trading Platform in 2008. The platform ensures fair trading in gold and silver and transformed the open outcry method into electronic trading, increased the trading hours from a mere 6 to 20 a day, and turned a 99 Tael Gold trading platform to an international spot gold trading market. Each transaction made through the platform is given a code which allows the investors to easily review their trading records, thus ensuring fairness, openness and transparency. Only half a year after the launch of the platform, transaction volume had turned tenfold. For his contribution to the reform of Hong Kong's bullion trading system, Mr Lee has received high acclaim from his peers. Over the years, Mr Lee's public service has included President and Permanent Honorary President of CGSE, Vice Chairman and Life Honorary Chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong, Member of the National Committee of the 12th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Standing Committee Member of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of CPPCC, and President of Shanghai Fraternity Association Hong Kong. In 2012, the HKSAR government decorated him with the Bronze Bauhinia Star in recognition of his contributions to promoting Hong Kong's social and financial development.

A successful career in Hong Kong has not, however, diminished his attachment to his hometown. The family of Mr Lee is from Ningbo, Zhejiang. Mr Lee was born and received education in Shanghai. The social developments of Zhejiang and Hong Kong have always been in his heart. In his roles as a Standing Committee Member of CPPCC (Zhejiang), President of the Hong Kong CPPCC (Zhejiang) Members Association and Honorary Permanent President of

the United Zhejiang Residents Associations (HK) (UZRA), he has been concerned with how the societies of Zhejiang and Hong Kong can complement each other, and how those with a common root in Zhejiang can help each other in Hong Kong. It was during his tenure as President of UZRA that he raised capital to acquire three levels within a building in a prime location in Wan Chai to serve as a gathering place for those who came from Zhejiang and those who want to enjoy authentic food from the region. The value of the property has since skyrocketed, and 'Zhejiang Heen' – the restaurant has impressed gourmands from Zhejiang and everywhere with its one Michelin star since opening in 2011. As President of CGSE, he has actively promoted the exchange and cooperation of the bullion trading sector in Hong Kong and that in Shanghai, bringing economic benefits to both cities. Over the decades, Mr Lee has also dedicated himself to improving the welfare in Zhejiang and Shanghai, offering his advice and making generous donations on everything from sewage and environmental issues to the education of the young.

Mr Lee's father, Dr Lee Woo-sing, advocates contributing to society by cultivating talent and promoting education and sees that as the best way to make a better society. This has left a great imprint on his son, who followed his father's lead by making numerous donations to mainland and local educational institutions. CUHK in particular has benefitted from his generosity, as his donations were made to set up many scholarships to support students in financial need. In 2017, when he became President of Shanghai Fraternity Association Hong Kong Limited, he initiated a donation from the Association for the establishment of Shanghai Fraternity Association Diligence Bursaries. The Bursaries offer financial aid to 65 students in need, who demonstrate diligence in their studies, and priority is given to local students. Fifteen spots would be reserved for students from Lee Woo Sing College to alleviate their financial burdens, so that they can concentrate on their studies. In 2018,

the Association lent a hand again and sponsored the establishment of a clinic of 'The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Shanghai Fraternity Association Integrative Medical Centre' in Wan Chai to promote the development of Chinese – Western integrative therapies. It supported at the same time the 'Science Academy for Young Talent of The Chinese University of Hong Kong STEM Programme' to nurture talent of advanced technology in Hong Kong. The donations mentioned above were orchestrated by Mr Lee. All of us at CUHK are forever indebted to his generosity.

Under his father's encouragement, Mr Lee founded the Grand Finance Group, which has served Hong Kong's financial sector long and well and won for itself an excellent reputation. His daughter and son, each a leading figure in finance in her/his own right, have continued his legacy. The key to the family's success comes from investing for long-term results, rather than short-term speculative gains. The Grand Finance Group upholds the philosophy of 'Investing for Generations'. But what is remarkable is that the three generations of Lees have demonstrated an unwavering resolve for charitable work and kindnesses. Their good hearts and good deeds have contributed to the betterment of society.

Mr Lee is a pioneer of Hong Kong's financial reform, a philanthropic veteran who has made selfless contributions himself and whose family has provided immense support to CUHK. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Lee Tak-lun William for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.