

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### Liu Shang Chien, Richard

Mr Richard Liu Shang Chien's family originated in the Lu prefecture in Henan province, and he was born in Taiwan in 1949. He graduated from the Department of Business Administration of the Taiwan University in 1970 and then launched into a distinguished career in commerce. He made his first success at the Wellington Leather Industries in Taiwan and set up his own business in Guangzhou in 1989. With admirable foresight he established his company in Hong Kong in 1994, from which time he further developed his enterprise on a global basis. Mr Liu is the Chairman of Superior Holdings Limited, an international conglomerate with business all over the world and has played an important part in the trading and industrial community of Hong Kong.

Mr Liu, a gentleman of a generous disposition, is much given to artistic and literary pursuits. As an undergraduate he was well known for his poetry, and had held the laurels for being the most promising poet in Taiwan. His own interest in literature prompted him to give generous support to the First and Second Global Youth Chinese Literary Award Schemes for the New Century organized by the Faculty of Arts of the Chinese University of which he was the Title Sponsor. The First Scheme was successfully concluded after much effort on planning, promotion, inviting entries, and adjudication, and at the award presentation ceremony, Mr Liu spoke of the two major challenges confronting Chinese literature today, namely, the replacement of words as a vehicle for expression by multi-media means, and the impact of foreign cultures on traditional Chinese culture. He observed that there was a need for the traditional to be maintained in Chinese literature and for new elements to be embraced, so that the Chinese literary art form may grow and develop, and find its place in the world during the new millennium, and he opined that this was a solemn issue that should be addressed seriously. Mr Liu, of course, had remarked most pertinently on the situation of Chinese literature nowadays, and at the same time showed forth his worthy intention of promoting Chinese culture and Chinese-language literature. The Literary Award Scheme will certainly continue to be a perpetrator of this noble cause and, when "the rare and precious blooms are all in their wonderful splendours", as Mr Bai Xianyong so picturesquely put it, then Mr Liu's laudable intentions will be much fulfilled, and the literary circle resound with praise for his munificence and patronage.

Mr Liu has provided generously for social, cultural and educational activities both in and outside of Hong Kong. Among the charitable trusts that he has set up, the Liu Ranyuan Foundation named after his late father and the Liu's Sino-European Foundation for Culture and Education in Belgium have, over the years, provided finance for countless worthy projects. In Taiwan, scholarships have been established at the Foreign Languages Department of Sun Yat-sen University for the benefit of young scholars. In the United States, Mr Liu has donated substantially to a study programme at the University of California at Berkeley, whereby Master's



degree students at the Centre for International Relationships may travel to China for exchange and familiarization. On the other hand, Mr Liu also facilitates the visit of officials of the municipal governments of Shanghai and Tianjin to Berkeley for courses in law, political science, economics and international trade. This exchange programme has been four years in existence and of proven success. In addition, funding has been provided to the University of Texas to finance short-term training courses for students from Jiaotong University, Fudan University, Tongji University and Renmin University of China, as well as the University of External Trade, as a way to broaden their international perspective. In May 2001, together with the Municipal Association for Cultural Exchange of the City of Tianjin, Mr Liu organised, through his Sino-European Foundation for Culture and Education, a Tianjin Cultural Festival in Belgium. The festival was a tremendous success, allowing international aficionados in Chinese culture the first glimpse of a wide range of art treasures from Tianjin. Items exhibited during the festival included jade carvings, porcelain, inkstones, calligraphy and paintings, of which the *Garden Upon a River* by the late Ming/early Qing master Badashanren was the most distinguished. This highly successful and significant event will soon be followed by another, when Mr Liu will open an exhibition on Mongolian art and culture, also sponsored by his Foundation, in Belgium in May 2002.

Mr Liu is firm in his belief that education is essential to humanity and that the promotion of cultural and educational activities should therefore be accorded primary importance. He abides closely by the principle that what has been obtained from the community should be used for the benefit of the community, hence his aptitude to make provision where a need is felt. For many years he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the development of primary and secondary education in Hong Kong, and academic activities at the Chinese University have always been high on Mr Liu's agenda. He has donated generously to this University and many of his friends, at his behest, have done the same. A good number of research projects in the humanities, archaeology and the social sciences owe their success to Mr Liu's financial support. Recently, Mr Liu played a key role in the introduction of a training course on human resources management specially created by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at the Chinese University for officials of the municipal government of Tianjin, and paid for the expenses. The project on primary and secondary education development at the Faculty of Education of the Chinese University benefited from his generous support, while outstanding students at New Asia College were the beneficiaries of the Richard Liu Foundation and the Dr Tien Chang Lin Technology Innovation Foundation Scholarships donated by Mr Liu.

Mr Liu is a member of the Board of Trustees of New Asia College and the Board of the University of California at Berkeley Foundation, a consultant to the School of Business Administration of the University of Texas, and a cultural advisor to the municipal government of Tianjin. He enjoys a truly deserved reputation both locally and world-wide as a promoter of education, human resources development, and academic exchanges. Mr Chairman, in consideration of his distinguished contribution to education and culture, I present Mr Richard Liu Shang Chien for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.