

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Lee Kam Chung, BA, MPhil

The Chinese University of Hong Kong was established in 1963, and Mr Lee Kam Chung was among its first class of graduates, taking his degree in 1964. He has committed himself to education since graduation. Just as the University has provided quality education and development opportunities for countless fine young people during the past four decades, Mr Lee has also taught numerous students over these years. For a university the first forty years is but the initial stage of development; but for a person, forty years would cover a precious part of life and career, especially for one whose enterprise in education is entirely built up through his own efforts. Over the years Mr Lee's educational career has yielded rich and abundant results, and these are worthy of the chronicles.

Mr Lee Kam Chung took up a teaching position in a secondary school after receiving his degree. Keenly aware of the lack of secondary school places at the time, Mr Lee founded a private secondary school in Wanchai in 1969. He called it Sapientia College, taking the name from the Greek word for wisdom. Wisdom leads to rational thinking, and on that basis, one's intellectual capabilities develops to enable him to take his place in the community. Indeed the name of his new school was an apt summary of Mr Lee's educational ideal. Later on he purchased new premises for a school in Tsuen Wan and the school grew to 24 classes. Sapientia College was in operation for over a decade in circumstances that its founder endured with great determination and fortitude, a fact which won Mr Lee the admiration and praise of peers in the education community. In 1984, Mr Lee accepted an invitation to be the Principal of Confucius Hall Middle School. During his tenure of office he ran the school by practicing Confucian principles and uniting all teachers and students in one great effort to strengthen the learning spirit and raise academic standards. In just a few years there was a sea change in the school's mentality, as Mr Lee set an example for all by taking the lead in all that he asked them to do.

The Federation of Alumni Associations of The Chinese University of Hong Kong came into being in 1978 and Mr Lee became its Chairman the following year. During his Chairmanship he proposed the establishment of a secondary school by the Federation so as to offer direct service to the community and to strengthen the professional ties between the Federation and the University. The Education Foundation of the Federation of Alumni Associations of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Limited was established in the early 1980's, and Mr Lee has been its Chairman since its inception. The Foundation operates on the principle of "Building Schools and Educating the Young" and, with Mr Lee at its helm, established two secondary schools, one primary school and two kindergartens between 1987 and 2004. These schools, located in Shatin, Tin Shui Wai and Ma On Shan, accommodate over 3,000 pupils every year, gradually bringing to fruition the alumni's intention of contributing to society through education. During the course of establishing these schools Mr Lee took up the onerous work of fund-raising by soliciting donations from various quarters, and later burdened himself with the heavy but thankless



task of serving as the Supervisor of these schools. He gave generously of his time, energy and money, and the educational projects of the Federation owe the greatest to his enthusiastic efforts.

Mr Lee's school-building projects are not confined to Hong Kong but extend to the Mainland as well. Since the launch of the Baby Bamboo Operation in 1991, he had raised funds for schools to be built in the mountainous regions of North Guangdong, Yunnan, Guizhou, Hunan and Sichuan to cater for children from poor families. In 1997 he opened a school in Shenzhen for the children of Hong Kong citizens. This is a full boarding school encompassing the entire schooling process from kindergarten through primary school to secondary school. The curriculum, textbooks and mode of teaching are all based on the Hong Kong model, and Mr Lee, as the founding principal, is at the forefront of a new trend in school education on the Mainland.

Over the past twenty years Mr Lee has been active in community service and has engaged in community projects relating to senior education workers and the younger generations.

Mr Lee Kam Chung received his Bachelor of Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1964, and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Hong Kong in 1980. In the early days of his career he undertook postgraduate work in History at the New Asia Research Institute under illustrious scholars such as the late Professors Chien Mu and Mou Runsun. He holds the New Asia College Motto dear to his heart. The College Anthem goes thus, "I come empty-handed, with nothing to my name. The road is long and endless, and I am in distress. Journeying amidst hardship, my body is subject to privation and stress. However, difficulties reinforce my resolve, and poverty makes me large-hearted. Whatever the burden ahead, I gladly take it upon my shoulders. While we are still young, let us in comradeship advance." Mr Lee is indeed a large-hearted person who has advanced boldly for the cause of education. He has journeyed in the comradeship of his wife and friends and struggled for his ideal. Over the years Mr and Mrs Lee have quietly and unobtrusively donated over two million dollars to educational causes. His efforts have today borne fruit, as witnessed by the successive generations of students who have benefited from his teaching, and to whom he has passed on the torch.

Mr Lee has been an enthusiastic supporter of the development of his alma mater. He was a Member of the New Asia College Board of Governors (later Trustees) from 1978 to 1994, and from 1994 he has been a Member of the University Council. He was at various times the Chairman of the Federation of Alumni Associations of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the CUHK Convocation, and the New Asia College Alumni Association. Mr Chairman, in consideration of his commitment to this University and his contributions to the community, in particular his efforts in the realm of education, I present Mr Lee Kam Chung for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.