

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Lam Ko-yin Colin

An old Chinese proverb says, 'He who wishes to acquire wealth, earns it the right way.' Zi Gong, one of the students of Confucius, ran his business on Confucian principles and integrity, thereby amassing great wealth. During the Spring and Autumn period, another merchant, Fan Li, used his exceptional business acumen to make a great fortune, which he then shared with his neighbours and friends. Zi Gong and Fan Li were exemplary merchants of great integrity. While today's Hong Kong is a profit-driven society, many of our entrepreneurs still embrace the principle of integrity in their business dealings. These people not only make profits the right way, but also give back to society and contribute to their country. These modern Zi Gongs and Fan Lis embody the Confucian spirits and demonstrate their magnanimous character, which have earned them wide acclaim in the business sector and high society.

Dr Lam Ko-yin Colin was born and raised in Hong Kong. Through hard work, he graduated from King's College and entered The University of Hong Kong (HKU) with excellent results in the matriculation exams. He majored in Physics. After graduation, he joined first The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, and in 1982 the Henderson Land Development Group to assist the Chairman, Dr Lee Shau-kee, in business development. With Dr Lam's assistance, advice and contributions, the Group expanded rapidly into a business kingdom, with investments ranging from property development, gas supply, ferry service, hospital, hotel management to logistics. Henderson Land has flourished over the past 40 years. Among the local property developers, Henderson Land owns the largest number of urban renewal sites and plots of agricultural land in the New Territories, which are worth over HK\$200 billion in total. The Hong Kong and China Gas Company has business in both Hong Kong and mainland China, where it runs the largest urban pipeline gas enterprise operated by a non-mainland entity. It has more than 250 ongoing investment projects on the mainland with a value of over HK\$250 billion. Dr Lam participated in the operation of Union Hospital, a private hospital

under the Group, and has been a director of the hospital since 1988 when the hospital project in Tai Wai was kicked off. Over the past 31 years, he has been responsible for the hospital's strategic planning and development. Union Hospital is the first accredited private hospital to provide 24-hour emergency services, and the first to roll out fixed-price medical packages that protect patients from going over-budget. The hospital also cares for the underprivileged by providing free surgeries, and launched the 'Union Hospital Charity Program' in 2006 to provide surgeries for those who cannot afford the medical fees. Such beneficence has saved many lives and warmed many more hearts.

The Group under Dr Lam's care has always been identified with compassion and goodness. The Hong Kong and China Gas Company in particular has won wide recognition for its high-quality services. When Hong Kong's economy hit the bottom at the turn of the millennium, the company froze its fee structure for seven consecutive years. In 2002, it struck a deal with Australia to ensure an uninterrupted supply of natural gas at low costs through 2031, and transferred the savings to Hong Kong's citizens in order to take some weight off their shoulders. This measure was highly appreciated by the community. Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings) was awarded the '10 Year Plus Caring Company Logo' by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, a testament to its good practices of corporate social responsibility. Hong Kong Ferry's commitment to caring for the community, its employees and the environment were among the things singled out for special mention. Dr Lam is currently Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Henderson Land Development Company Limited, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Henderson Investment, Chairman of Hong Kong Ferry (Holdings), and a director of Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, Miramar Hotel and Investment Company Limited, and Union Hospital. He is also a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong. Any one of these positions would have stressed out any seasoned manager, but Dr Lam

manages them all with apparent ease and strategic wisdom.

Dr Lam is a firm believer in education, taking very much to heart the saying that ‘it takes ten years to grow a tree, but a hundred to grow a person.’ For decades, Dr Lam has been actively promoting education and nurturing the younger generations. In 1992, he founded Chi Wah Foundation Limited to support youth education and help the underprivileged. A total of 36 secondary schools in Fujian, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Shandong and Jiangsu provinces, and every year about 100,000 students have benefitted from the Foundation’s generous donations. Chi Wah Foundation has also made donations to six mainland universities, namely, Peking University, Fudan University in Shanghai, Guizhou University, Nanchang University in Jiangxi, the Ceramic Institute, and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, to construct and renovate their integrated teaching buildings, libraries and museums. The Foundation has also endowed local educational institutions. For instance, Chi Wah Learning Commons on the Centennial Campus of HKU is named after Chi Wah Foundation. Dr Lam’s support for education knows no geographic boundaries; it is also extended to overseas institutions including the University of British Columbia in Canada and Macquarie University in Australia. Many students from all over the world are also beneficiaries of Dr Lam’s generosity.

Dr Lam places a high priority on moral education. He believes, as Confucius did, that Great Learning lies in ‘making one’s virtue shine and renew the people’, and therefore attaches great importance to moral education. Dr Lam believes that it is vital for the younger generations to be upright and diligent, and that they should give back to society when they have established themselves in society. For this reason, Chi Wah Foundation establishes scholarships and university grants to inspire students to aim for higher goals. It also organises joint school activities, as well as cultural and sport competitions, to realize the Confucian ideals of virtue, wisdom, physical fitness and social skills. Chi Wah Foundation sponsored the

Splendid Chinese Culture website, an awardee of the World Summit Awards for Best Content in e-Culture. Dr Lam hopes that his young beneficiaries will be able to tell right from wrong, lead an upright life, and contribute to society. These great aspirations and foresight from a benevolent elder and philanthropist deserve our utmost respect.

Chi Wah Foundation raised numerous relief funds, and has made emergency donations to provide medical treatment and assistance to those in distress, such as the earthquake victims in Wenchuan (Sichuan) and Qinghai. It also provided free surgeries to children who suffered from ventricular septal defects. To honour Dr Lam’s outstanding contributions to Hong Kong society, the HKSAR Government bestowed on him the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2017. He was also awarded the Degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa* by Macquarie University in recognition of his business accomplishments, and an Honorary Fellowship by HKU for his contributions to the university.

Dr Lam is also an ardent supporter of CUHK. Apart from setting up scholarships and bursaries, he supported the campus development of Lee Woo Sing College. As Dr Lee Shau-kee’s right-hand man, Dr Lam has been a long-time director of the Lee Shau Kee Foundation, providing invaluable advice on donations and charity. In 2018, Dr Lee supported the University’s teaching and research by making a major donation through the Lee Shau Kee Foundation. The students and teachers of CUHK are forever indebted to Dr Lam for the vital role he played in this act of grand magnanimity.

Dr Lam is a man of integrity whose remarkable business accomplishments are a perfect example of how Confucian business ethics should be practised. Today, we honour a gentleman of the business world and a philanthropist who cares for education and his community as well as CUHK. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Dr Lam Ko-yin Colin for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.