

## Honorary Fellow A Citation



### **Dr Lee Shiu, BS, MS, MSc, PhD**

1997 was an important year, not only for Hong Kong and Mainland China, but also for Dr Lee Shiu. While it was decreed that Hong Kong's political infrastructure would remain unchanged for fifty years, yet changes are occurring across the whole society. Young people in Hong Kong, especially students, are still trying hard to find ways to cope with the new order, and to meet its challenges.

This is an issue that has always been on the mind of Dr Lee Shiu. It is the task of thinking men and women to reflect and be concerned, and Dr Lee is no exception. Dr Lee firmly subscribes to the principle that learning should serve the needs and meet the demands of society. He has therefore established exchange programmes, known as the Comprehensive Summer Cultural Exchange Programme for students of Hong Kong and Mainland China. Participants are invited from Hong Kong and the Mainland, with a small number from the United States and Canada. The students are brought together, to observe and study various facets of Hong Kong and Mainland society, from the political, social, economic and cultural perspectives. The objectives of this Comprehensive Exchange Programme are three:

First, the programme would help university students in Hong Kong to know and understand the young people, the society and the culture in the Mainland.

Second, the programme would enable university students in the Mainland to learn about the young people in Hong Kong and also modern Hong Kong itself, where the market economy is a resounding success, serving as an example of how the market economy and cultures can be developed in the Mainland.

Third, the programme also provides the opportunity for university students from the United States and Canada to experience life in China at first hand, to exchange ideas with the Chinese, and eventually to achieve mutual trust and cooperation, which will pave the way to a harmonized world in the future.

The exchange activities would be held during summer vacation. Participating students must take part in tours and visits in order to experience local cultures, broaden their perspectives and renew their thinking; in the process, they contribute to advances in modern society. Society and culture are all-embracing and students from all disciplines are welcome to participate in the exchange programmes.

Over the past eight years Dr and Mrs Lee have organized four to six weeks Comprehensive Summer Cultural Exchange Programmes at three local universities including The Chinese University of Hong Kong, at a cost of 30 million dollars. To date, over twelve hundred students have benefited from the exchange activities which have impacted them so deeply that a number of promising young university students have changed the course of their lives – looking upon China as an important place to start to build a globalized, harmonized and peaceful world.

In 2001 he endowed Chung Chi College with a handsome donation to establish the Lee Shiu Centre of Intercultural Learning, and the project "China Today – a Study of Hong Kong and



Shanghai” was launched.

In 2004 students from Singapore were admitted to the project, and the theme was “China’s Path to Modernity and Prosperity – A Study of Three Cities, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore”.

In 2006 the Centre organized another study programme called “China Tomorrow” and the study and travel spanned three important cities in Asia: Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing.

Many of the student participants have recorded in their self-assessment after the event that both the study and investigative visits have helped them to understand the cultural differences among them, deepened their sense of mission and of responsibility to the community, and enhanced their knowledge, self-confidence and self initiative. These students proudly call themselves “Lee Shiuers”<sup>1</sup> 李韶人<sup>1</sup>, and it is certain that the teachings of Dr and Mrs Lee have been etched forever on their young minds: “Develop a social consciousness and pay back to society (回饋社會).”

Dr Lee also has an abiding interest in the development of legal studies, medical studies and social science studies in China, and how pursuits in the Mainland are being connected to the international community of learning, and how dialogue and communications between the two can be facilitated. He has supported many academic activities including lectures and forums and, as English is the language of international academic exchanges, Dr Lee is of the opinion that the standard of English among Hong Kong students leaves much room for improvement. In response, he has organized English language training programmes with his own funds. Experienced trainers from the English Language Institute in the United States were invited to Hong Kong to conduct courses for local English teachers, with a view to raising the quality of language teaching here. The Foreign Experts Bureau of China in Beijing has also requested the assistance of Dr Lee in identifying suitable English language teachers to work in China.

The ancestral home of Dr Lee is in Zhongshan, Guangdong, and he is the son of the late Mr Lee Iu Cheung, a prominent business tycoon. Dr Lee completed his early education in Hong Kong, Macao and Guangzhou, and then pursued graduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Chemical Engineering. He then moved on to Yale University where he obtained his MSc and PhD in Chemistry. He taught at Chung Chi College of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Ohio Northern University, and pursued research work at DuPont de Nemours & Company. In 1970 he returned to Hong Kong to take up the family business, engaging himself in the development of engineering, commercial and educational activities.

Dr and Mrs Lee Shiu are both philanthropists who aim at serving mankind and giving back to the community, and the cultural exchange programmes that they have established are particularly significant. Dr Lee has recently donated his Dragon Garden Villa, located at Tsing Lung Tau in the New Territories, to the Hong Kong Government for the benefit of the public. The Dragon Garden Villa, which title Dr Lee bought over, was built by his late father and is a stately home featuring a fusion of Chinese and Western architectural styles; the gardens are particularly renowned for their Chinese style. Dragon Garden will soon be open to the public and it is another manifestation of Dr Lee’s philosophy: that sharing is the greater pleasure. Here we see another glimpse of Dr Lee’s benevolent nature. Mr Chairman, may I now present Dr Lee Shiu for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.