

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Thomas Cheung Biu Liang, BA, MBA

In its early days, the campus of the Chinese University was basically a barren hill apart from the Chung Chi College buildings close by the railway station. Over the years this barren hill has transformed itself into a reputable seat of learning known all over Asia, beautifully adorned with fine landscape and where the humanities and the sciences meet in collaborative endeavours. The University is also daily gaining stature in the international academic arena. All these achievements are, of course, the result of the hard work of the teachers and the students, but equally not to be forgotten are the pioneering efforts and leadership of the founders of the University. Among these Dr Lee Quo Wei is a most famous figure who maintains a deep connection with CUHK.

Dr Lee Quo Wei is a Grand Bauhinia Medal recipient and the founding Treasurer of the Chinese University. He was actively involved in the planning and development of the University and, as Chairman of the University Council from 1982 to 1997, was at the helm of the University's extensive development programmes. He retired from the Council in 1997 and became a life member. Since the inception of the Chinese University, Dr Lee has devoted himself wholeheartedly to the furtherance of the University's growth plans, helping her to garner important financial and other resource support from the community and the Government. Dr Lee also established the Wei Lun Foundation Endowment Fund through which the University has obtained much assistance in the engagement of visiting professors and distinguished scholars, in scientific research, as well as in exchanges with the academic community worldwide.

Today the Chinese University is glad to see the benevolence and munificence of Dr Lee being perpetuated and manifested by Mr Thomas Liang.

Mr Thomas Liang, a distinguished entrepreneur, is the son-in-law of Dr Lee Quo Wei. He is the Group Chief Executive of the Wideland Investors Group of Companies. With his excellent wisdom and foresight, Mr Liang is a much respected businessman in finance, capital markets, banking, real estate development and capital investments.

Mr Liang attended the Diocesan Boys' School and went to the United States for his higher education. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley in 1970 and obtained his Master of Business Administration at Columbia University in 1972.

Mr Thomas Liang is a businessman of remarkable achievement and, prior to joining Wideland in 1980, he had served in senior executive positions in many large multinational corporations, including Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Citibank, and Esso Standard Oil Limited. At the moment Mr Liang sits on the Board of many companies, including serving as a Non-Executive Director of Miramar Hotel and Investment Company Limited and the New World Development Company Limited, as the Vice-Chairman and Director of the Executive Board and Life Member of



the Hong Kong Heart Foundation Limited, and as a Director of the King Fook Gold and Jewellery Company Limited and of Miramar Hotel (Hawaii) Inc, U.S.A. Furthermore, Mr Liang is also a Director of the Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong.

Mr Liang has always been a staunch supporter of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is now the Chief Executive of the Wei Lun Foundation Limited, the family trust of Dr Lee Quo Wei. For decades the Foundation has been a tower of strength in support of the Chinese University, and its donations are innumerable. The best known example of the munificence of the Wei Lun Foundation is are the Wei Lun Visiting Professorship / Fellowship Scheme that the Foundation financed over the years. Under that scheme over a hundred scholars of international renown have visited The Chinese University of Hong Kong and given lectures. These specialised lectures help to facilitate academic exchanges and stimulate the improvement of teaching standards at CUHK as they enable both students and faculty members to share the enormous wealth of knowledge of wisdom of world-class scholars. Visiting professors who came to the Chinese University under the Wei Lun Scheme have included many Nobel laureates and other distinguished academics, for example Professor Steven Chu, a laureate in Physics, Professor Reinhard Selten, a laureate in Economics, Professor Louis Ignarro, a laureate in Physiology or Medicine, and Professor Yuan Longping of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The Chinese University has derived profound benefits from the visits of these prominent scholars. Furthermore, the Foundation has supported on a long-term basis the establishment of endowed Chairs, scholarships, research development funds and visiting professorships and scholarships, enabling a wide range of disciplines to benefit. In this way the Foundation has made enormous contributions to the development of many departments and research institutes.

The benevolent acts of the Wei Lun Foundation Limited have continued and, in recent years, these include a donation to support the G. H. Choa Cardiovascular Centre of the Faculty of Medicine, which helps to strengthen the facilities for heart surgery and provides direct benefit to patients with cardiac complaints. The Foundation also handsomely endowed the School of Law to establish a chair professorship and to substantiate the holdings and furnishings of the Law Library. Such generosity will help the new School develop on solid and adequate grounds.

Mr Liang and the Lee Family have both pledged to continue their support to the Chinese University and to contribute to the development of its fabric and facilities. Mr Chairman, in recognition of the outstanding services he has rendered to the Chinese University, may I present Mr Thomas Cheung Biu Liang for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.