



## In Memory of Dr Choh-Ming Li

The Chinese University of Hong Kong records with deep sadness the passing away of Dr Choh-Ming Li, Founding Vice-Chancellor of the University, on 21 April, 1991 in Berkeley, California, USA, at the age of 79.

A highly respected Vice-Chancellor and an educationalist with foresight and a strong sense of mission, Dr Li played a pivotal role in laying a solid foundation for The Chinese University of Hong Kong and in guiding its development through the first 15 years of the University's history. First as a member of the Fulton Commission which recommended the establishment of the Chinese University in 1963 and then as the Founding Vice-Chancellor, Dr Li accomplished very important pioneering work, building on the foundation of the three Constituent Colleges, to launch a new university of high international standing.

Under his able leadership, the Chinese University successfully integrated and expanded its academic programmes. A modern, efficient and scenic campus was built up from what was originally a barren hill-top. Dr Li advocated bilingual education and held the strong conviction that the Chinese University has a unique role to play not only in educating the young people of Hong Kong but also in promoting interaction between the Chinese and Western cultures and in making special contributions to the world of learning.

Born in China in 1912, Dr Li attended Nanking University before he furthered his studies at the University of California at Berkeley where he obtained the degrees of BA (1932), MA (1933) and PhD (1936).

As one of the youngest professors in China, Dr Li taught Economics at Nankai University, South West Associated University and Central University between 1937 and 1943. During the post-war years, Dr Li dedicated his efforts to help rebuild the country and held consecutive appointments as Deputy Director-General of the Chinese National Relief

and Rehabilitation Administration, Chief Delegate to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Conferences and the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, as well as becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Rehabilitation Affairs.

From 1951 to 1963, Dr Li pursued an outstanding academic career at the University of California at Berkeley as Professor of Business Administration, and Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies. He was widely praised for his contributions towards promoting the study of Economics and Management as well as Chinese Studies.

Dr Li spent the next 15 productive years of his life in Hong Kong as the first Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University. After his retirement in October 1978, Dr Li resided in Berkeley as an Emeritus Professor of Business Administration, but his concern and affection for the Chinese University remained an important driving force behind the University's development in the ensuing decade.

In recognition of his contributions to higher education and international cooperation, Dr Li was honoured on numerous occasions, especially by the award of the Knight Commander of the British Empire (Honorary) in 1973, and honorary degrees from several leading universities in Hong Kong and abroad.

During the crucial formative years of the University, Dr Li devoted his total energy and efforts to help the institution become a university of high international standing. His departure signifies the loss of a veteran leader in higher education. He will be affectionately remembered by Council members, officers, staff and students of the University.

24 April, 1991