

DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
honoris causa

Mr Michael WONG Yick Kam, SBS, MH, JP



Mr Pro-Chancellor,

In the 1970s, when there were only two government-funded universities in Hong Kong, admission was highly competitive and limited to the top two per cent of secondary school graduates. Mr Michael Wong Yick Kam, born and raised locally, was one of them. He was admitted to The Chinese University of Hong Kong where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1977. In 1984, he completed a three-year Master's Degree in Business Administration. Despite his success in navigating the demanding educational system, Mr Wong deeply resonates with Confucius's teaching of "Education for all" (「有教無類」), which was also the founding vision of The Open University of Hong Kong, now the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU). This shared commitment to accessible education has fuelled his unwavering dedication to advancing the development of the University during his 14 years of service on our Council.

Mr Wong devoted almost his entire career to Sun Hung Kai Properties, starting as an Executive Trainee and quickly rising to become the Group's Executive Director in 1996. In this role, he oversaw corporate development, strategic planning, investment, property market research and analysis, and infrastructure projects. With his extraordinary driving power, Sun Hung Kai Properties consistently received accolades, including being voted as the Number 1 Best Managed Company in Asia and Number 1 Best Property Company in Asia for many years by the international finance and investment community. In 2009, he retired from his full-time post and served as a Non-Executive Director and Group Principal Advisor in order to focus more on public and community service and make a difference outside the corporate arena.

With his exceptional management expertise, profound professional insight, and a heart brimming with grace and love, Mr Wong is highly sought after as a leader and advisor by various public organisations and voluntary agencies. He has served as Chairman of the Council of Hong

Kong Metropolitan University and the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association, and as a member of various boards and committees. He is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association, the Estate Agents Authority, the Land and Development Advisory Committee, the Securities and Futures Commission, the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, and the Board of Trustees of New Asia College, of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Education is one of Mr Wong's passions, as he believes it is the key to unlocking boundless possibilities for the younger generation and driving positive change for Hong Kong and the world at large. Dedicated to education and nurturing young people, he has provided mentoring advice and support to students at The Chinese University of Hong Kong for many years. His involvement with the HKMU Council, initially as a member and later as Treasurer, Deputy Chairman and Chairman (2016–2022), has contributed tremendously to driving excellence in teaching, learning and research at the University. He has helped align the development of the University with societal needs, elevate its status and recognition locally and internationally, and guide it through numerous challenges with focus and momentum. Under his strategic and visionary leadership, HKMU has emerged as a leader in open and flexible education in the Asia Pacific region, with full-time programmes for qualified secondary school leavers on par with other established UGC universities across Hong Kong.

When asked about his proudest achievement, Mr Wong cited the continuous and vigorous expansion of programmes that address the manpower shortage in specific industries and cater for the evolving learning aspirations of talent in Hong Kong and the region. Moreover, he takes pride in the University's having achieved this on a self-financing basis, that is, without Government recurrent subsidy. HKMU's signature programmes in Nursing, Physiotherapy, Creative Arts, Testing and Certification, Energy and Environmental Studies, Early Childhood Education, Psychology, Corporate Governance and Hospitality Management have been well-received and highly regarded in the Government's Joint University Programmes Admissions System.

Mr Wong has also played a significant role in renaming and rebranding the University. Recognizing that the former name, "The Open University of Hong Kong", projected an image of a purely distance-education institution and hindered the University's development and the image of its graduates, he launched a comprehensive retitling campaign in 2020. The result was the current title, which represents the University's commitment to serving the evolving needs of the city and its neighbouring regions in a modern and dynamic way.

In addition to his dedication to education, Mr Wong is deeply committed to youth and cultural work. He joined the Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association in 2000, a non-profit organization that provides affordable hostel services to young people and travellers from around the world. Through these hostels, the Association aims to broaden the horizons of young people, foster cultural exchange and nurture a deep connection with nature and heritage conservation. As Chairman of the Association from 2005 to 2014, he spearheaded the revitalization of Mei Ho House in Shek Kip Mei under the Government's "Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme", transforming the Grade Two Historic Building into a vibrant youth hostel and a museum called Heritage of Mei Ho House. The latter evokes the collective memories of residents in the 1950s and 60s, featuring their assiduous livelihood and their stories of overcoming hardship.

On behalf of the Association, Mr Wong also published a book titled *The Memories of Mei Ho House*, which showcases the history of resettlement estates, sheds light on the lives of the grassroots community, and embodies the Lion Rock Spirit of Hong Kong. Furthermore, he initiated the Hong Kong Spirit Learning Project for primary and secondary school students to retrace the footprints of Hong Kong people in bygone days and to see how a generation can thrive in times of adversity. In recognition of its achievements in heritage conservation, Mei Ho House received an Honourable Mention in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in 2015. Mr Wong derives immense joy and satisfaction from contributing to a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's history, values and resilience, and in sharing this with the younger generation.

When asked about his formula for success, Mr Wong emphasised giving his absolute best in every endeavour, often surpassing the expectations of others. He recounted receiving 105 marks for an assignment during his MBA studies because the professor was impressed by the exceptional quality of his submission. He advises the younger generation to strive to do their best without being overly calculating and to deliver more than expected, believing that their efforts will eventually yield rewards.

Mr Wong holds a strong emotional attachment to Hong Kong and envisions it as not only an international financial centre, but also a world-class hub of arts and culture, with a compassionate society and high liveability. He has lofty expectations for HKMU, a university committed to shaping a better future for Hong Kong.

Over the years, Mr Wong has received numerous accolades for his contribution to society. In 2012, he was awarded the Medal of Honour from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Government. In 2017, he was appointed a Justice of Peace, and was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from his alma mater, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was presented with the Director of the Year Award by the Hong Kong Institute of Directors in 2019 and received the Silver Bauhinia Award from the Government in 2022 for his distinguished service to society.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, under Mr Wong's leadership, HKMU has embarked on a transformative journey, embracing a future of limitless possibilities, striving for excellence and contributing to societal advancement. His steadfast commitment to bringing positive changes to Hong Kong and beyond is truly admirable. I feel very privileged and honoured to invite our President to present Mr Michael Wong Yick Kam for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Citation to be delivered by Professor Charles KWONG Che-leung

榮譽社會科學博士

黃奕鑑先生, SBS, MH, JP

副校監先生：

在 70 年代，香港只有兩所政府資助大學，入學競爭非常激烈，只有百分之二成績最優異的高中畢業生才可以入讀，土生土長的黃奕鑑先生就是其中一位。他獲香港中文大學取錄，並於 1977 年取得工商管理學士學位；其後又修讀為期三年的工商管理碩士課程，並於 1984 年取得碩士學位。儘管黃先生在嚴苛的教育體系中脫穎而出，但他深受孔子「有教無類」的教誨觸動，這一教誨也是香港都會大學（都大）的前身—香港公開大學的創校理念。就是這一共同理念促使黃先生在擔任校董會成員的十四年間，一直努力不懈推動大學發展。

黃先生一生幾乎都在新鴻基地產工作，從行政見習生做起，獲公司提拔，於 1996 年迅速晉升為集團執行董事。在這個職位上，他負責企業發展、策略規劃、投資、房地產市場研究與分析，以及基礎設施項目。憑藉其卓越的推動力，新鴻基地產屢獲殊榮，包括連續多年獲國際財經和投資界評為亞洲最佳管理公司第一名和亞洲最佳地產公司第一名。2009 年，他從全職崗位引退，擔任非執行董事和集團首席顧問，以便更加專注於公共和社會服務，期望在企業領域以外能夠有所領會。

黃先生具備超卓的管理才能、豐富的專業識見和仁民愛物的心志，深受各公共機構和志願組織的歡迎，相繼邀請他出任領導職位和顧問。他曾擔任香港都會大學校董會和香港青年旅舍協會主席，以及多個董事會和委員會成員。他目前是香港青年旅舍協會行政委員會、地產代理監管局、土地及建設諮詢委員會、證券及期貨事務監察委員會、外匯基金諮詢委員會，以及香港中文大學新亞書院校董會的成員。

教育是黃先生最重視的範疇之一，因為他相信教育為年輕人開啟無限可能，是推動香港乃至全球正向改變的關鍵。他致力教育工作並培育年輕人，曾多年參與香港中文大學的學長

計劃，為學生提供意見和支援。他加入香港都會大學校董會之初是一名普通校董，後來相繼擔任司庫、副主席和主席（2016-2022），為推動卓越教學、學習和研究貢獻良多。他將都大的發展與社會需求緊密結合，提升都大在本地和國際上的地位和知名度，並成功帶領都大憑着專注和毅力跨越眾多挑戰。黃先生高瞻遠矚，在他的領導下，香港都會大學已成為亞太區開放及靈活教育的領先院校，為合資格中學畢業生提供的全日制課程亦與香港其他具規模的教資會大學看齊。

當被問及最引以為傲的成就時，黃先生認為就是都大能夠持續擴展課程，因為這些課程有助解決社會個別行業的人力短缺問題，並且能夠滿足香港和區內人才對汲取知識的渴求。此外，對於都大能夠在自負盈虧，即沒有政府經常資助的基礎上取得上述成就，他深感自豪。香港都會大學的護理、物理治療、創意藝術、測試及認證、能源及環境研究、幼兒教育、心理學、企業管治及酒店管理等旗艦課程，在政府的大學聯合招生制度中廣受歡迎，亦備受推崇。

黃先生還在大學更改校名和品牌重塑方面發揮重要作用。他認為「香港公開大學」這個原有名稱給人純粹是遙距教育機構的印象，有礙大學發展和影響畢業生的形象，因此在 2020 年決定就大學重新命名徵求建議，最終確定採用現時校名，代表大學致力以現代和充滿活力的方式配合香港和鄰近地區不斷發展的需要。

除獻身教育事業外，黃先生還致力於青年和文化工作。他於 2000 年加入非牟利機構香港青年旅舍協會，該協會為來自世界各地的青年和旅遊人士提供經濟實惠的旅舍住宿服務，其宗旨是通過這些旅舍開拓年輕人的視野，促進文化交流，並培養他們與大自然和文物保育的深厚感情。黃先生在 2005-2014 年擔任協會主席期間，配合政府的「活化歷史建築夥伴計劃」，主導位於石硤尾的美荷樓活化計劃，將這座二級歷史建築改造成充滿活力的青年旅舍和名為「美荷樓生活館」的博物館。美荷樓生活館喚起大家對五、六十年代美荷樓居民的集體回憶，也展示他們艱苦奮鬥生活和克服困難的故事。

黃先生亦替青年旅舍協會出版《美荷樓記》一書，通過介紹徙置區的歷史揭示基層社區的生活，以及展現香港獅子山精神。此外，他還發起「美荷樓—香港精神學習計劃」，讓中小學生追尋香港人昔日的足迹，了解上一代人如何在逆境中茁壯成長。美荷樓於 2015 年榮獲聯合國教科文組織亞太區文化遺產保護獎榮譽獎，以表揚其在文物保育方面的成就。

黃先生對於能夠為促進年輕人深入了解香港的歷史、價值觀和堅韌不拔的精神作出貢獻，感到樂趣無窮和非常滿足。

當別人問及他的成功秘訣時，黃先生強調自己做任何事都會全力以赴，並且往往會超出他人的期望。他回想在修讀工商管理碩士課程期間，他的一份作業獲得 105 分，因為教授認為他提交的作業不同凡響。他建議年青一代努力做到最好，不要過於斤斤計較，要做出超乎預期的成績，並且相信付出的努力最終會獲得回報。

黃先生對香港懷有深厚感情，憧憬香港不僅是國際金融中心，也是世界級的藝術和文化中心，更是充滿仁愛和高質素的宜居城市。他對香港都會大學寄予厚望，希望這所大學能為香港建構更美好的未來。

多年來，黃先生殫精竭慮地貢獻社會，獲得多項讚譽。2012 年，他獲得香港特別行政區政府頒發榮譽勳章。2017 年，他獲委任為太平紳士，並獲母校香港中文大學頒授榮譽院士。2019 年，他獲香港董事學會頒發年度傑出董事獎，並於 2022 年獲香港特別行政區政府頒授銀紫荊星章，表揚他在社會服務的傑出成就。

副校監先生，在黃先生的領導下，香港都會大學踏上轉型之旅，擁抱無限可能的未來，致力追求卓越，為社會進步作出貢獻。他踏實地為香港和其他地區帶來積極和正面的改變，令人欽佩。本人恭請校長引介黃奕鑑先生接受本校的榮譽社會科學博士學位。