

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Dr Chan Sui-kau, GBM, GBS, OBE, DBA (Hon), DSSc (Hon), JP

In the classical story of *Mencius and King Hui of Liang*, an ideal society in ancient times is one in which elders are clothed in silk, and citizens are offered a proper education and learn to love and respect for parents and the elderly. Such a society, it is said, will lead to the kingship being passed down and nationwide peace realized. As translated to modern society, Mencius's "clothed in silk" means quality clothing. That is to say, people's livelihood and happiness starts with decent clothing, and ends with an ultimate goal of a proper education.

A native of Dongguan, Guangdong Province, Dr Chan Sui-kau was born into a family with a history in the manufacturing and trading of gambiered Canton silk. With this background in the textile industry, Dr Chan understood the importance of clothing to people's welfare. He founded Yangtzekiang Garment Limited in 1949, becoming an industrialist and entrepreneur at the exceptionally young age of 23. His business has since grown from a small factory with no more than 100 workers to a publicly listed corporation that today boasts 10,000 employees worldwide. With annual earnings of over US\$400 million, the corporation is now a vital contributor to the world textile industry. Dr Chan's highly successful career is the product of his diligence and shrewd management, a flexible operation that kept abreast of world trends, and a drive to keep his business always moving forward. He diversified his enterprise into areas such as knitting, merchandising, manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing, exporting mainly to Europe, the US, Japan, and southeast Asian countries. In 1987, the group spun off its wholesaling and retailing branch and established another publicly listed corporation, YGM Trading Limited, which now has 320 outlets all over the world.

Yangtzekiang Garment Limited has its roots in Hong Kong and stands as a representation of the city's accomplishments in the textile industry. Although he is a prominent industrialist, Dr Chan has always been grateful to the people who have made him what he is today, and for decades he has worked tirelessly in support of the rights of the industry and its workers. In the 1960s, Dr Chan united with representatives from textile trade associations and succeeded in lobbying the government for a fair quota system. In 1988, he worked closely with entrepreneurs in the local spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing and clothing sectors to create the Textile Council of Hong Kong, a union that represents the interests and development of the entire industry. Dr Chan was elected the council's first Chairman.

Dr Chan has also attended to the welfare of workers in the garment industry. During negotiations between employers and workers, he helped hammer out a reward scheme that ensured long-serving employees received just compensation. His ability to remain impartial, despite being an employer himself, earned him the trust of both sides. A distinguished and respected figure in the textile industry, Dr Chan has a long record of public service. He has served as a Member of the Textile Advisory Board of the Trade Department, Chairman

of the Garment Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Clothing Industry Training Authority, and President of the Federation of Hong Kong Garment Manufacturers. He has also served as Chairman of the Textile Council of Hong Kong, and is currently the Council's Honorary Chairman. As an outstanding industrialist and leader, Dr Chan showed excellent leadership during these tenures, successfully unifying different sectors in the industry to make concerted contributions.

Mencius believed that the people should be fed, dressed and then offered a proper education, a principle Dr Chan also upholds. After his garment business matured, Dr Chan turned his energies to the promotion of education by making donations in support of education in both Hong Kong and mainland China. With beneficiaries across the border including Shunde Chen Huinan Memorial High School, Wuxi No.1 High School, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Jinan University, South China Agricultural University, Panyu Polytechnic, Dongguan University of Technology, University of Macau, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong Baptist University, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, a great many students benefitted from Dr Chan's generosity. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, for example, has received generous donations from Dr Chan and his family's charity trust in support of the Institute of Chinese Medicine and the I · CARE programme. The Institute of Chinese medicine aims to promote research in Chinese medicine, including multiple functions of authentication, quality control, safety assurance, clinical trials, drug development, information centre and public education. Through Dr Chan's donation, the Institute was able to further advance its research for the benefits of staff and students of the University and the wider community. The I · CARE programme enables students to participate in different social and civic engagement programmes, and promotes social enterprises and corporate social responsibility measures. It also invites world-renowned scholars to give university lectures on civility, thereby helping students engage in whole-person development. During the University's golden jubilee celebration, Dr Chan also made a contribution to a charitable project jointly held by the Chinese University and the Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation. The project allowed a team of 80 volunteer teachers and students from the Chinese University, Peking University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Stanford University and Oxford University to go to an impoverished village in Gansu Province and help build a footbridge. The new bridge not only provided villagers a way to cross the river, it also provided children a safe way to get to school. Named "CUHK Golden Jubilee Wu Zhi Qiao", the bridge represents the University's hopes for sustainable development at its 50th anniversary, as well as Dr Chan's unending love for his deceased wife Mrs Chan Lam Moon-chun, memorialised in the Mandarin Wu Zhi, "endless". The couple wed in 1944, and through six decades of love and support set a timeless example for modern marriages.

Dr Chan's support of education extends beyond geographic boundaries, such as in his support for the China Synergy Programme for Outstanding Youth. This programme provides scholarships that have allowed Chinese tertiary students living abroad to return to mainland

China for a cultural exchange. Thanks to Dr Chan's generosity, this programme has had a profound impact, offering these students a better understanding of the modern motherland and their own cultural heritage, and paving the way for a possible return after graduation. The China Synergy Programme for Outstanding Youth has been held for 11 years, providing scholarships to over 1,000 outstanding Chinese tertiary students.

Dr Chan's generosity has also extended to the health of his fellow citizens. His donation enabled the establishment of Dongguan Medical Aid Foundation, Guangdong Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, and the construction of the outpatient building of Panyu Sanatorium, the Princess Margaret Hospital Charitable Trust, Centre for Sports Rehabilitation in Guangzhou of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His charitable spirit has helped countless patients receive timely medical treatment.

For his active participation in philanthropic public services, Dr Chan was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1983, and received an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1988. From 1993 to 2003, Dr Chan was also appointed a member of the People's Political Consultative Committee of the People's Republic of China. The Hong Kong SAR Government honoured Dr Chan with the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2002, and the Grand Bauhinia Medal, its highest honour, in 2008, in recognition of his immense contributions to Hong Kong and the whole China. He was awarded honorary doctorates from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2001, 2007 and 2008 respectively. His significant contributions to the cause of education have earned him respect and admiration by people all over the city. Dr Chan is also Honourable Citizen of the cities of Dongguan, Guangzhou, Foshan and Wuxi.

Mr Chairman, I have the great honour of presenting to you Dr the Honourable Chan Sui-kau, a respected senior with a heart for social welfare, a great entrepreneur and contributor for Hong Kong's textile industry, a selfless philanthropist for education in Hong Kong and the whole China, for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.