

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Mr Chan Tak Lam, Norman, SBS, JP

Mr Chan Tak Lam, Norman is a distinguished alumnus of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is currently the Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority responsible for monetary management, financial infrastructure, economic research, reserves management and international financial affairs.

Mr Chan was admitted to the Department of Sociology at Chung Chi College in 1972. He was a keen participant in events and activities as an undergraduate student. Upon graduation in 1976, Mr Chan was recruited into the Administrative Grade of the Hong Kong Government, becoming one of the earlier Chinese University graduates to join this elite rank of the Civil Service. From then on he has served with distinction in a number of government departments, where his abilities have been recognized through successive appointments of great responsibility. In 1991 he was given the position of Deputy Director of the Office of the Exchange Fund and promoted to Staff Grade B the following year. In 1993, upon the amalgamation of the Office of the Exchange Fund and the Office of the Commissioner of Banking to form the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Mr Chan was appointed as Executive Director. In 1996 he was promoted to Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

Mr Chan holds a very important office in the HKMA in that he plays a key role in maintaining monetary stability as well as the proper functioning of the financial markets in Hong Kong. And he has discharged the duties of his high office with a firm steadfastness, being always in command of the situation despite turmoil and upheavals in global and domestic markets. In August 1998, hedge funds staged a fierce attack on the Hong Kong's currency and financial markets. The financial system was under threat and confidence was deeply shaken. Entrusted by the Government to fend off the attack, Mr Chan worked with colleagues in the HKMA to take decisive actions in the equities and futures markets, frustrating the double-market manipulation by the hedge funds. Stability was thus restored to the Hong Kong currency and financial markets.

Apart from being at the forefront in safeguarding Hong Kong's financial stability during the Asian Financial Crisis, Mr Chan has been instrumental in promoting the development of the bond market in the Asia-Pacific region, for which purpose he has travelled extensively both in China and abroad. In May 2001 he led the Hong Kong, China delegation and attended the 34th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank. At the Meeting he spoke on the crucial factors leading to the recent crisis in Asia and emphasized the urgency for an overhaul of the financial structure in the region. He also advocated that the Asian Development Bank should assume a more proactive role in the development of the bond market in the region. His presentation came to be greatly admired as one of great relevance to the needs of the time.



Mr Chan is a person who thinks broadly and who takes on worthy causes with courage. He is a staunch supporter of developmental programmes of both the Chinese University and Chung Chi College and, since 2000, has been participating actively in the Mentor Programme of the College. As a mentor he has shared his profound experience in life with young students so as to open up their minds and broaden their horizon on life. In the Outstanding Alumni Series marking the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the College in 2001, Mr Chan gave an insightful speech entitled "Some Random Thoughts of An Alumnus", which benefited all the audience in no small measure. He pointed out that university students, as intellectuals, should develop and cherish independent thinking and persevere in doing what they think is right. Mr Chan also officiated at the Dean's List and Outstanding New Students Award Ceremony of the Faculty of Social Science in 2001.

Mr Chan Tak Lam, Norman is an executive director of the Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation and a director of Hong Kong Note Printing Limited and the Exchange Fund Investment Limited. He was appointed as Justice of the Peace in 1993, and awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star of the Hong Kong SAR in 1999. Mr Vice-Chancellor, in consideration of his significant contribution towards Hong Kong's development as an international financial centre, and his remarkable efforts in strengthening the financial infrastructure in Hong Kong, I present Mr Chan Tak Lam, Norman for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.