

Honorary Fellow Mr James Liu Ying-yin

Citation written and delivered by Dr John Leung Wai-keung

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President,

Mr James Liu Ying-yin, currently Managing Director of Mars Securities Company Limited and Action Win Industries Limited, is a successful entrepreneur in Hong Kong. A self-made man, he has worked assiduously for over 40 years in managing his business, while not forgetting to repay society for the support he has received from it. He is particularly helpful in the development of City University of Hong Kong. His munificence has touched the lives of many.

Mr Liu first entered the job market as a bank clerk in the 1960s. Because of his persistent effort and spectacular performance, he was promoted to a management position after only four years. He was assigned to different departments within the bank, with the result that he knows every aspect of the banking business like the back of his hand. His diligence is also seen in how he has made use of his spare time. He succeeded in securing professional qualifications such as Chartered Secretary (AGIS, ACIS) and Chartered Marketer (MCIM). He is also a Fellow of the Hong Kong Securities and Investment Institute (FHKSI).

The year 1970 was a turning point in Mr Liu's career. Having impressed his supervisors with his excellent performance, he was given the chance to work in the bank's head office in the UK for advanced training. Meanwhile, the securities membership license that he had applied for earlier was approved. Mr Liu carefully weighed up his options, and finally decided that the opportunity of starting his own business might not come again. He thus gave up the chance of receiving further training in the UK, resigned from the bank, and mortgaged his properties for a start-up fund, with which he opened a securities company.

Subsequently, with the evolution of Hong Kong's economy, Mr Liu's business has blossomed. In addition to trading in securities, Mr Liu directed his energy to property investment, the rental business, commercial trading, and managing supply chains for the garment industry. In 1976, Mr Liu extended his operations to garment manufacturing. He was involved personally in all the business negotiations, personnel management, the production process and the shipment of goods and so on, significantly expanding his understanding of business operations.

Because of his family background, Mr Liu was not able to continue his studies after he graduated from secondary school. But he never gave up his wish to go to university. After forging a successful career, Mr Liu enrolled on CityU's EMBA programme and graduated in 2001. Mr Liu is pleased to recall being taught by CityU's renowned professors and meeting other students who were also leading successful careers. Most important of all, however, was that CityU's EMBA enabled him to apply what he had learnt about information technology and management methods to his factories in mainland China and Southeast Asia, which, in a significant way, helped develop his business.

His business practices have been heavily influenced by his life experiences: take matters one at a time, work at a steady pace, and look for the right moment to succeed. In times of difficulty, hold on to one's principles and persist. Armed with such convictions, Mr Liu has been able to overcome various obstacles.

Mr Liu is an active participant in alumni activities in support of the development of the University, such as establishing a scholarship for students in the College of Business wishing to pursue the joint degree programme with Columbia University in the US. He has also taken up a variety of positions at CityU, such as being a founding life member of the CityU Eminence Society, a member of the University's Court, a member of the Board of Governors and Honorary Vice-President of the CityU Foundation, and a member of the Foundation's Alumni Advancement Committee. He is also Honorary President of the CityU Industrial and

Business Leaders Circle. In 2011, he was appointed Adjunct Professor in CityU's College of Business. In recognition of his contributions, a multi-purpose room on campus was named "James Liu Multi-Purpose Room".

Eager to give back to society, Mr Liu has made generous donations to education and religious organisations, building schools on the mainland and helping young people complete their studies. Now at the point of retirement, Mr Liu plans to continue to contribute to society by nurturing young talent.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council and Mr President, with his positive and ambitious personality, Mr James Liu Ying-yin has been undaunted when faced with difficulties during his career. In his pursuit for new knowledge, he has succeeded in keeping up with the times, and applying what he has learnt. For years, he has given back to society in gratitude for what he has received, and he does his utmost to nurture the development of young students. I respectfully present him to you for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of City University of Hong Kong.