

Honorary Doctor of Business Administration

Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai

Chairman:

We now honour an engineer, a public servant, a devoted citizen and a visionary legislator. Born in Hong Kong, Dr Raymond Ho was educated at University of Hong Kong and the University of Manchester in engineering. He joined the Taylor Woodrow Group to acquire contracting experience before returning to research in concrete technology and earning his PhD from the City University of London in 1971. Two years later, he came back to Hong Kong to join Maunsell Consultants Asia and helped it grow from a rather small company into the largest engineering consulting firm in Hong Kong. After working as Partner and Senior Director of Maunsell Consultants Asia for 18 years, he joined UDL Holdings Ltd as Joint Managing Director in 1993 with the responsibility for all contracting and China business within the group. Since his return to Hong Kong in 1973, Dr Ho has dedicated himself to the building of the city in a most crucial period of its development. He was in charge of many important projects, including the assembly and protective system of the structural steelwork for Tsing Ma Bridge, as well as the reclamation, seawall construction and roads and drainage work for the new International Airport at Chek Lap Kok. His capable hand has left its mark on many of the landmarks and structures that we are proud of here in Hong Kong, such as the new towns in Shatin and Tseung Kwan O, KCR's East Rail stations from Kowloon Tong to Lo Wu, and many high-rise commercial or residential buildings, bridges, highways, tunnels, hospitals, hotels, and other major elements of Hong Kong's infrastructure. It is no exaggeration to say that Dr Ho and the Hong Kong engineers he represents in the Legislative Council have literally shaped the city in its most visible aspects and created a most impressive and beautiful image, a city that aspires to be a first-rate international metropolis like New York, Paris, or London.

Dr Ho not only does the work of an engineer, but he is also a formidable voice for engineers in Hong Kong. He has served as a former President of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, a past Vice President and now International Representative (Asia-Pacific Region) of the Institution of Structural Engineers of the UK. He

is a former Chairman of Transport Advisory Committee in the Hong Kong government, and has been elected a member of the Legislative Council representing the Engineering Functional Constituency. It would be impossible to list the numerous posts and appointments that Dr Ho holds in the different areas of his career, but I would like to point out in particular his contributions to universities and higher education in Hong Kong. In addition to his service on various boards and committees at the University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr Ho has a special relationship with our University, because he was Council Chairman of City University of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1994, having served earlier as Deputy Council Chairman. He has always put great emphasis on good quality education and considers the promotion of knowledge, both cultural and scientific, as vital for the future prosperity of Hong Kong.

Though charged with a tremendous amount of work and responsibilities, Dr Ho always tries to accomplish all with boundless energy and engineer's precision. "I have to admit," says Dr Ho, "that I am a workaholic. I work all the time including X'mas and New Year days." With so many responsibilities in both professional and public life, there are of course unavoidable moments of frustration, but Dr Ho considers frustration a welcome challenge, and he always finds satisfaction in hard work. In a way, that may best describe the spirit of the builders of Hong Kong as a great international metropolis.

Dr Ho's hard work and achievements have won him many honours and awards. He is an MBE and a JP, and we are especially happy today to welcome back Dr Raymond Ho to City University for the conferment of yet another well deserved honour.

Mr Chairman, now I present to you Raymond Ho for the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.