

## **Honorary Fellow**

### **Professor Chan Kei-biu**

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Citation written and delivered by Professor Luk Kwai-man

Pro-Chancellor, Deputy Chairman of the Council and President:

In 2002, Professor Chan Kei-biu visited the Nobel Prize Centennial Exhibition in Stockholm, Sweden. As he was leaving the building, his attention was drawn to writings posted on the door frame. They were quotations from famous Nobel Laureates. The sentence that left the deepest impression was Lord Rutherford's views on innovation: "We don't have the money, so we have to think". The inspiring comment left a profound impression. One must use brain power to solve problems and discover new dimensions. A lack of resources or money is not a barrier. This quotation has since become the most important motto for Professor Chan and his company.

Professor Chan graduated from Queen Mary College, University of London in 1968 with a "double" first class honour in Electrical Engineering. In 1972, he obtained a PhD degree with a thesis on optical fibre transmission analysis. Professor Chan's standing in tertiary education was recognised in 1998 when he was conferred an Honorary Fellow by Queen Mary and Westfield College. In 2005, he was appointed by Guangdong University of Technology as Guest Professor.

After a brief period working on post doctorate research, Professor Chan returned to Hong Kong in 1973. He joined an electronics company as an engineer and began his career in electronic manufacturing. It was an exciting time for electronic products and he was among the first in Hong Kong to produce digital watches and telephones. In 1982, Professor Chan established a company to distribute electronic components. In 1986, Professor Chan's passion for technology and manufacturing led him to found Surface Mount Technology (Holdings) Ltd (SMT). The company pioneered the application of surface mounting techniques for electronic circuit board assembly. Professor Chan is the Chairman and Senior Managing Director of SMT, determining strategies

for the company and steering it in the right direction. Today, SMT has grown into an enterprise with more than 7,500 employees and it is one of the leading Electronic Manufacturing Service (EMS) providers in the Pearl River Delta. SMT operates six factories in four strategic locations within China, stretching from South to North, and it was listed on the main board of the Singapore Stock Exchange in 2001. In 2009, SMT was ranked the 29<sup>th</sup> in the world within the Electronic Manufacturing Service Industry.

Professor Chan firmly believes a company's success stems from a unique corporate culture. He combined the best of both eastern and western management philosophies to establish a company culture known as "Super 5S+1". It is a management practice with an emphasis on being Serious, Systematic, Standardised, Simple, Sustainable and Quantified. Its application enables SMT to continuously enhance its competitiveness and productivity. Professor Chan is also a boss willing to roll up his sleeves and work with frontline employees to improve production quality and efficiency.

Professor Chan is Chairman of the Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association (HKEIA). Under his leadership, the Association promotes business opportunities, best management practices and advanced technology, and contributes to Hong Kong's electronics industry being well respected in China and around the world. Social responsibility is also an important agenda item for the Association. Professor Chan is one of the founders of the HKEIA Education Fund. Its mission is to build schools in underprivileged areas in China. Six schools have been built in Hunan, Hubei, Yunnan, Guangdong and Jiangxi provinces. The fund also provides financial assistance and awards to students in China and Hong Kong.

Professor Chan is heavily involved in charities, public services and environmental protection activities. In 2005, he established the Hong Kong Green Manufacturing Alliance and worked with a number of trade associations to promote the green factory practices and clean production. Professor Chan serves on various committees and councils in numerous public organisations in Hong Kong and China including Innovation and Technology Fund, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Federation of Hong Kong Industries, Hong Kong Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre and Tianjin Economic-

technological Development Area. He is the Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers and the Honorary President of the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology. In 2008, in recognition of his contribution to the electronics industry, Professor Chan was awarded the Medal of Honour by the Hong Kong SAR Government.

The relationship between Professor Chan Kei-biu and City University of Hong Kong has been steadfast. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the University, an Adjunct Professor with the Department of Electronic Engineering and has been designated Chairman of the Department of Electronic Engineering's Advisory Committee, Honorary Chairman of the Advisory Committee (Industry) for Co-operative Education Centre and Honorary Advisor of the College of Science and Engineering. In 2004, a lecture theatre of the University was named after Professor Chan in recognition of his achievements in the electronics industry and his contribution to higher education in Hong Kong. Last year, Professor Chan was invited by the University to work with other experts from the US, mainland China and Taiwan on a special project. Their mission was to advise on how to transform our University into a green campus. Based upon the group's recommendations, CityU established the first School of Energy and Environment in Hong Kong.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Deputy Chairman of the Council and Mr President, Professor Chan Kei-biu is a remarkable entrepreneur, a visionary business leader and a good friend and staunch supporter of the University. I am most honoured to present to you Professor Chan, for the award of Honorary Fellow of the University.