

## Citation for Dr John T S Chen

Your Excellency,

Dr John Tso-shun Chen, who graduated in Law and Economics from Aurora University in Shanghai in 1946 and obtained his Doctorat d' Université ès-Lettres from the Université de Paris VII, is a scholar and university administrator of unusual distinction.

On graduation, Aurora University appointed him to the editorship of its *Economics Bulletin* and subsequently to a Lectureship. When he came to Hong Kong in 1951 he continued his career as a teacher, first in Wah Yan College and subsequently in the National Central Institute of Political Science in Vientiane. In 1959 he took his first step into academic administration by joining The Asia Foundation. That was followed six years later by a number of appointments in The Chinese University of Hong Kong, culminating in his appointment as the University's Registrar, a post he occupied with distinction from 1973 to 1982. The reputation he made for himself both as an administrator and as a scholar in his seventeen years at The Chinese University of Hong Kong led to his appointment as Vice-President of this College in 1982 and as President from 1983 until August of this year.

Born and educated in Shanghai as a member of a Cantonese family, John Chen speaks both Cantonese and the Shanghai dialect with native fluency and is almost equally at home in Putonghua, English and French. The range of his published works shows that throughout his life he has put these linguistic gifts to excellent use.

In the late sixties he worked on his translations of Chinese *yanyu*, which were published as *1001 Chinese Sayings* in 1973. Throughout the early seventies he worked on his doctoral thesis on Chinese script reform, which was published in 1980 by the College de France's Institute des Hautes Études Chinoises under the title *Les Reformes de L' Écriture Chinoise*. But it was as a translator from English to Chinese that his reputation in the nineteen sixties and seventies would have earned him a place in any Translation Department. In the twelve years between 1964 and 1976 he published no fewer than thirteen translations of significant works in English, the majority of them key texts on the law or on politics and each of them with its own special problems for the translator, who had to bridge two very different contexts of situation for each discipline.

His commitment to the leadership of this College in the eighties and in the first five years of this decade obliged him to suspend his published output for that period. But it did not interfere with his public service in the area of education. That includes appointments in a range of some 9 or 10 significant educational bodies -- among them the Hong Kong Examinations Authority, the Board of Education, the Catholic Board of Education, the Lingnan Education Organization, the New Asia Educational and Cultural Association, the Caritas Education Committee, and the Police Education and Welfare Trust. He has now also accepted a new post as Director of New Asia Institute of Advanced Chinese Studies.

When Dr Chen became Registrar of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and then President of this College, his early experience as a teacher never allowed him to forget that universities are about teaching and research and that their senior administrators are the facilitators, who help their teaching staff to maximize the institution's resources in pursuit of those aims.

In The Chinese University of Hong Kong Dr Chen was known for his conscientiousness, his unfailing courtesy and for his almost infallible memory. At a time when the University was still growing in both size and reputation, and particularly at the time of the Fulton Commission, he saw his office as Registrar as facilitating that growth and as maintaining and improving the procedures that would make that growth as fast and efficient as possible.

The major leadership role he had as President of this College in 1983 presented him with a challenge of a very different order. Here was a small tertiary institution with a long and proud tradition, inherited from its mother institution, Lingnan University, in Guangzhou, but with one part of its then Diploma programme still at the Advanced Level. Over the next twelve years, he was to lead that institution to University Grants Committee and degree-conferring status, and to a Hong Kong first as an all residential tertiary institution.

Throughout that period Dr Chen showed that he had great tact in representing the College in its best light to members of Government, the Civil Service and the UGC. That same tact enabled him to persuade members of staff to make the difficult changes in their teaching and research, which were required for the College's new three-year Honours Diplomas and subsequently for its four new honours degree courses. It was under his leadership, too, that the College developed and refined its basic education in the humanities, which is common to all students and is intended to broaden their intellectual horizons and to develop a sense of collegiate identity as well as a better understanding of moral values. Dr Chen had the breadth of academic experience, which enabled him to upgrade the academic and administrative profile of the College, whenever scarce new funds became available. He knew how important it was to seek advice within and outside the College on a whole range of issues and to be seen to be doing so. He also knew, Sir -- and this is a rarer gift -- how to take that advice, when it was offered. His colleagues who worked with him towards the end of the College's climb to recognition came to admire his determination and his unflappability on the rare occasions, when matters did not go as they should. They appreciated his capacity to establish a clear set of priorities for the institution's development and knew that he also had the flexibility to change that order, if the need should arise.

Your Excellency, I have much pleasure in presenting to you Dr John Tso-shun Chen as a teacher, scholar, and administrator of great distinction for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

## 陳佐舜博士贊辭

總督閣下：

陳佐舜博士是一位卓爾不凡的學者及大學行政人員。陳博士於一九四六年畢業於上海震旦大學，獲頒法學士學位及經濟政治學文憑，後獲法國國立巴黎大學頒發文學博士銜。

大學畢業後，陳博士獲震旦大學委聘，出任「經濟月刊」編輯，其後任講師。他於一九五一年抵港，繼續教育工作，任教於華仁書院，後赴寮國永珍，教學於國立中央政治科學院。一九五九年，任職亞洲協會，開始從事教育行政。六年後，加入香港中文大學，先後擔任不同職務，一九七三年至一九八二年升任大學教務長，成就卓著。任職香港中文大學十七年，在大學行政及學術兩方面均卓有聲譽，其後於一九八二年獲本校聘任為副校長，並於一九八三年至今年八月出任校長。

陳佐舜博士出生於上海一廣東家庭，在上海接受教育，能說地道廣東話及上海方言，亦嫻熟普通話、法文及英文。他發表的著作正顯示他的語言天賦發揮得淋漓盡致。

六十年代後期，陳博士致力中國諺語的翻譯，於一九七三年出版「中國諺語選集」。七十年代初期，孜孜不倦撰寫有關中國文字體系改革的博士論文，其成果「中國文字改革」一書於一九八〇年由法國學院漢學研究所印行。作為英譯中的翻譯專家，他在六十年代及七十年代已建立卓著聲望，若要任教任何一個翻譯系均是綽綽有餘。一九六四年至一九七六年這十二年中，他翻譯並出版了不下十三本英文著作，其中大多是有關法律及政治的主要論著，而每一本均有特殊的翻譯難題，譯者必須將每一範疇內兩種迥然有別的本文融會貫通。

八十年代前五年，陳博士致力領導學院發展，因而被迫暫時放棄譯著生涯。但這並沒有妨礙他參與教育公職，並獲多個重要教育團體的聘任，包括香港考試局、教育委員會、天主教教育委員會、嶺南教育機構、新亞教育文化會、明愛教育委員會及警察教育福利信託基金。現在他正出任新亞研究所所長新職。

陳博士任職香港中文大學教務長及本校校長時，時刻不忘早期的教學經驗，深諳大學主要任務是教學及研究，而資深行政人員應致力倡導有關發展，協助教員在達致上述目標時盡量善用院校資源。

在香港中文大學，陳博士以認真盡責、一貫謙恭有禮及記憶準確著稱。在香港中文大學規模正不斷擴展，聲譽正不斷上揚時期，特

別是「富爾敦委員會」期間，陳博士視大學教務長的職責為推動大學發展、維持及改進程序以協助大學作迅速及有效率發展。

一九八三年陳博士出任本校校長時所承擔的領導角色，為他帶來另一種截然不同的挑戰。學院當時是一所規模細小的院校，具有廣州母校嶺南大學悠久而值得引以自豪的傳統，但所提供的文憑課程仍有部分屬於預科程度。其後十二年，他領導學院加入「大學教育資助委員會」體系，獲致頒授大學學位地位，及成為本港第一所為全部學生提供宿舍的大專學府。

陳博士出掌本校期間顯示出極大的能耐，將學院優異的一面向政府部門及官員、大學教育資助委員會等展示。就是這種能耐使他說服教職員在教學和研究方面作出適應。轉變雖然困難，但對學院當時新設的三年制榮譽文憑課程及其後開辦的四項榮譽學位課程均有其需要。在陳博士領導下，學院發展及改進有關人文學科的基本教育，協助學生開拓知識領域，培養對學院的歸屬感及對道德價值有更深入的了解。

陳博士有廣博的治學經驗，因而每當學院獲取稀有新資源時，他都能適當運用以提升學院的教學及行政工作。陳博士知悉在各項問題上尋求校內外人士諮詢，同時讓大家目睹諮詢的重要性。總督閣下，陳博士另一罕有天賦，是知道如何接納建議。與他一起致力謀求學院地位被獲認可的同事，都欽佩他的堅定不移；當事情進行得不理想時，他能夠鎮定自若。他們欣賞陳博士為學院發展一套明確輕重緩急準則的才幹，同時知道有需要時，陳博士亦會隨機應變，調整學院發展的優先次序。

總督閣下，陳佐舜博士是一位卓越的教育工作者、學者和行政人員，現特恭請閣下頒予榮譽法學博士銜。