

Citation for Mr Wai Kee-Kau

Your Honour,

You may have heard that Lingnanians take much pride in their "red-grey" spirit, a fine tradition which has been nurtured and developed through the efforts of Lingnan pioneers for over a century. Though established a long time ago, this tradition continues to be reflected in the culture of today's Lingnan organisations, steering their educational mission and development.

But what is the essence of that spirit which generations of Lingnanians cherish as the highest aspiration in life?

The Lingnan spirit may be something we behold with awe, but in reality it is manifested in the conduct of our Lingnan predecessors. We are deeply touched by the analogy "red as blood and grey as iron", which symbolises sincerity, integrity and perseverance. Our predecessors have demonstrated unity and fraternity, taking it as their mission to serve others and to strive to achieve the highest aim in life: "For God, for country, for Lingnan". Imbued with this "red-grey" spirit, Lingnanians unwaveringly strive forward to make progress.

Your Honour, Mr Wai Kee-Kau, on whom the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws is being conferred today, is a good example of the true Lingnan spirit.

Born in Vietnam, Mr Wai migrated in 1931 to Hong Kong, the city which he has ever since cherished as his home. Two years later, in 1933, he was first introduced to the Lingnan family as a pupil of Lingnan Primary School. For the next sixteen years, through his active participation in Lingnan educational processes, his personality gradually assimilated the Lingnan "red-grey" spirit. In 1949, Mr Wai obtained his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Lingnan University. He pursued further studies in the University of Michigan, where he was awarded the Master of Science in Civil Engineering in the following year.

With his specialised knowledge and the characteristic perseverance and broad vision cultivated by a Lingnan education, Mr Wai has achieved great success in his career. He has had outstanding achievements in civil engineering, the property business and in other investments.

While progressing successfully in his career, he is constantly motivated by the spirit of "come to serve, not to be served" in his efforts for the advancement of society. He holds that education is a social enterprise, which spurs progress in society. Towards this end, Mr Wai has taken great pains to promote education indefatigably since the 1950s.

As early as 1958, he served on the Management Committee of Lingnan Middle School, and in the capacity as one of the School's Directors, he took initiatives in expanding Lingnan education with exemplary zeal. In the mid 1960s, he actively participated in the work of both the Committee on Expansion of Lingnan Education and the Lingnan Education Organization, Ltd, once serving as their Chairman. In 1967, despite hardships and difficulties, Mr Wai together with a group of devoted Lingnanians managed to found Lingnan College with only limited resources. Afterwards, he has served in a number of capacities including Supervisor, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the Council of the College. He has been closely associated with Lingnan education for over three decades.

In 1995, Lingnan College moved from Stubbs Road to its Tuen Mun new campus. As a member of the Campus Development Committee, Mr Wai has made significant contributions to the development of the new campus. He has been actively involved in the fund-raising campaign for the new campus. Besides making a generous donation himself, he has succeeded through his untiring efforts to secure contributions from both generous donors and Lingnan University alumni.

Over the past three decades, Mr Wai through participation in the work of Lingnan education has rendered valuable services in the promotion of education at all levels in Hong Kong. His efforts have come to great fruition. Under the constraint of limited manpower and financial resources, Lingnan institutions encountered formidable challenges at the initial stage of their development; but Mr Wai and his fellow colleagues, with integrity and perseverance, met the challenges, and finally reached their objective of firmly rooting Lingnan education in Hong Kong. The significance of Lingnan education, however, lies not only in its provision of an integrated system comprising a College, secondary and primary schools, a kindergarten and a day nursery, but also in the dissemination of the Lingnan spirit.

Lingnan's motto is: "Education for Service". Lingnanians like Mr Wai Kee-Kau abide by the spirit contained in the motto, striving to advance Lingnan education as a base on which social prosperity can develop; they have shown the same fortitude, with which the Lingnan institutions have progressed through many difficulties to their present pinnacles of success. The Lingnan spirit, which is characterised by a firm resolution in the face of difficulties and dedication to service irrespective of hardships, is particularly relevant for Hong Kong at this time of change.

Your Honour, for his personal qualities and for his steadfast efforts rendered for education in Hong Kong and for the distinguished achievements he has made, I present Mr Wai Kee-Kau for the award of the Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

韋基球先生贊詞

代理總督閣下：

在座的嘉賓，可能都聽過嶺南人引以自豪的紅灰精神。這是超逾一世紀以來，聚匯無數嶺南先驅心血所栽培出來的優良傳統，歷久而彌新地體現在嶺南的機構文化中，同時引領嶺南院校的教育使命和發展路向。

但紅灰精神究竟蘊含 怎麼樣的精萃，足以令世代嶺南人矢志不渝地奉為人生至高準繩呢？

嶺南精神高山仰止，但具體而微地反映在嶺南人的言行風範上——在嶺南的前輩身上，我們都體會到那一股沛然散發的「殷紅如血·深灰似鐵」情操，那一股表徵 忠義堅強的「赤誠不泯·堅毅不撓」精神。他們團結友愛，以服務人群為己任，以實現「為神為國為嶺南」作人生至高理想。本 這崇高的精神，嶺南人在生命的旅途上，奮勇前進不已。

代理總督閣下，今天獲嶺南學院頒授榮譽法學博士銜的韋基球先生，就是體現嶺南精神一個活生生的例証。

韋基球先生出生於越南，一九三一年移居香港，從此以香港為家，同時也與嶺南大家庭結下不解緣，因為從一九三三年開始，韋先生就入讀嶺南，由小學、中學到大學，整整十六年霑沐在嶺南教育的春風化雨中，塑造了嶺南人的風格和氣質。一九四九年，韋先生畢業於嶺南大學土木工程系，獲授理學士銜，旋即赴美國密芝根大學深造，翌年獲頒土木工程理學碩士學位。

韋先生憑 學有所長的專門知識，更憑 嶺南教育培養出來的堅忍不拔精神和擴闊視野，開拓事業領域，卓然有成，在建築工程、地產發展和投資等方面，均創締了輝煌成就。

在業有所成的同時，韋先生又本 「非以役人·乃役於人」的信念致力為社會服務。他認定教育乃社會的大業，乃社會不斷興革前進的動力所繫，所以致力創辦教育，用以服務人群，用以謀求社會進步。

韋先生對香港教育的貢獻，始於五十年代。他於一九五八年加入嶺南中學管理委員會，以校董身份，領導嶺南教育的推展。六十年代中期開始更積極從事嶺南教育擴展委員會和嶺南教育機構的工作，曾任兩機構主席。一九六七年與一班熱心嶺南人，排除萬難以有限資源創辦嶺南書院。其後曾任嶺南書院監督、嶺南院校董會主席及校務委員會主席等職務，拓展嶺南教育，凡三十多年。

一九九五年嶺南學院從司徒拔道舊址遷入屯門新校園。韋先生是新校園發展委員會成員之一，為屯門新校園的興建和發展，特別是籌募發展基金方面，貢獻良多。除了自己慷慨捐贈外，更多方奔走聯繫，協助推動社會賢達和嶺南校友捐獻資助嶺南新校園發展的經費。

三十多年來，韋基球先生透過參與嶺南工作，在教育界不同的層面，推動為社會育才的百年大業，成果殷碩。嶺南各院校在建校之初，受人力和資源所限，締造為艱。但韋基球先生和嶺南諸君子，以當仁不讓的精神貫徹理想。在歷史洪流翻騰的歲月中，他們憑堅強忠義，披荆斬棘，令嶺南教育在香港得以發揚創新，開放燦爛奪目的花。更重要的，是嶺南教育不僅為香港提供一個包括幼兒園、幼稚園、小學、中學，以至大專的完整教育體系，更在於她所發揚的嶺南精神所蘊含的時代意義。

嶺南一貫以來的校訓就是「作育英才，服務社會」。像韋基球先生一樣的嶺南人秉承訓諭，以熱熾的忠誠，努力不懈推廣教育事業，以為社會謀福祉；同時又憑堅苦卓絕的精神，帶導嶺南院校克服險阻，屢闖高峰。嶺南人這種遇到厄難而益發挺越，為忠於服務而不畏艱辛的承擔精神，正是處於過渡期的香港，要力爭上游開拓美好將來所亟需的要素。

代理總督閣下，為表揚韋基球先生的個人修為和功業，特別是為香港教育所付出的心血和創締的成果，本人謹請閣下頒授予榮譽法學博士學位。