

Twenty-Eighth Graduation Ceremony of Lingnan College
Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*
A Citation

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**Dr Chiu Hin-kwong**

**Mr Visitor,**

Warfare has always been a painful experience for human beings. In the midst of the difficulties of wartime, however, some people grew up strong and found a new life. During the tragic times of war in southern China, a young man of great courage had to leave Hong Kong to travel to a far-away south-western province of China with the sole purpose of continuing his studies. Notwithstanding years of uncertainty and hardship, the young man's indomitable will bore fruit. He finally became a distinguished medical doctor. This young man, who is standing on the stage in front of us now, is Dr Chiu Hin-kwong, one of our honorary graduands.

When Japan started the Pacific War in 1941, Hong Kong quickly fell into the hands of the Japanese military forces. Dr Chiu was then at the tender age of twelve. He had no choice but to give up his studies. Yet with a great zeal to learn, and encouraged by his mother, he followed a senior church deacon to Guilin, where he continued his studies at Pui Ching and Pui To Middle School. When the war was over, he was admitted to the affiliated secondary school of Lingnan University in Guangzhou and graduated with flying colours. He was admitted as a private student to the medical degree programme at the University of Hong Kong. He became a qualified doctor in 1953.

Upon graduation, Dr Chiu set up his clinic in Shaukiwan, an underprivileged district of Hong Kong Island in the 1950s with mostly low-income families, including fishermen, dockyard labourers and squatters. Dr Chiu's wish to serve the poor and needy was instilled by his Christian faith as well as by his personal experience of hardship in adolescence. Dr Chiu can still vividly remember that he had to walk on rough trails or to take a sampan to attend to his patients some forty years ago. Conditions in those areas were so poor that there was often no water or electricity. His commitment to serve the underprivileged class over the years remains unswerving, and has been deeply appreciated by those people whom he served.

Apart from his professional medical practice, Dr Chiu has been actively involved in promoting community medical and health services through his stewardship and membership in many medical and professional organisations. Currently, he is a member of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Advisory Board and the Tung Wah Hospitals Governing Committee, Board Director of the Baptist Hospital and Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Centre. From the 1970s to the 1990s, Dr Chiu served on a number of professional bodies - as Chairman of the Medical Development Advisory Committee, Member of the Dental Council, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Baptist Hospital, Chairman of the Governing Committee of Shatin Hospital, Deputy Commissioner of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Medical Service, and Vice-President of the Hong Kong Medical Association. He has served the Hospital Authority in various capacities, including his capacity as Member of the Authority, Chairman of its Regional Advisory Committee, and Member of its Public Complaints Committee. He was one of the early founders of the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians and served as its founding Vice-President from 1977-1980. The College plays a pivotal role in providing continuing education and training as well as in granting higher qualifications to the family physicians of Hong Kong. In recognition of his contributions, he was appointed Honorary Fellow in 1987.

A native of Hong Kong, Dr Chiu has made equally significant contributions to the Hong Kong community outside the medical sphere. In 1982, when the future of Hong Kong became an agenda for discussion by the governments of the PRC and the UK, Dr Chiu was one of the local professionals invited by the State Council of China to meet and exchange views with Mr Liu Chengzhi, the late Director of the Hong Kong-Macau Affairs Office.

Extensive and distinguished professional experience has earned Dr Chiu numerous public positions, including Member of the Legislative Council (medical functional constituency). He was appointed to the Executive Council for 1985-88. During his terms of office, he provided expert advice on the policy formulation of medical and health services and on the enforcement of the laws banning undesirable medical advertisements. He played a particularly important role in the moves which led to the establishment of the Hospital Authority and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

Human resources play a vital role in the social and economic development of most countries. There is a Chinese saying that it takes ten years to grow a tree but one hundred years to educate a leader. Deeply imbued with the spirit of this saying, Dr Chiu has been an ardent supporter of educational development in Hong Kong. His contributions in this field are no less significant than his work in the medical profession and community health. These include serving as Council Member for Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the Court of the University of Hong Kong. From 1992 to 1995, in his capacity as Chairman of the Lingnan Educational Organization, Dr Chiu negotiated with the Hong Kong government, which led to the granting of land for Lingnan College to be relocated in Tuen Mun and the retention of the two buildings in Tung Shan Terrace for Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten in Stubbs Road. As a result, Lingnan's educational services, reputed for being the only comprehensive schooling system in Hong Kong, which ranges from the kindergarten to the tertiary level, were firmly established.

In 1991, Lingnan College became the seventh tertiary institution under the aegis of the University Grants Committee. During this crucial period of College development, Dr Chiu was appointed by the government as Chairman of the Board of Governors and the Council under a new College Ordinance. The appointment brought new challenges and tremendous responsibilities. Under his stewardship, the new Tuen Mun campus was completed, signifying the beginning of another new chapter in the history of the College. Since its move to Tuen Mun in October 1995, the College has initiated a series of new features in its structural and management system. This ultimately led to the successful Institutional Review conducted by the University Grants Committee in January 1998 and the award of self-accreditation status to the College in September by the Chief Executive in Council of the HKSAR. The College is now fully prepared for the change of title from Lingnan College to Lingnan University. The retitling to university has long been the aspiration of thousands of Lingnians. These achievements would not have been possible without the able stewardship of the Board of Governors and the Council under the chairmanship of Dr Chiu and the concerted effort of Lingnan's staff. In the years ahead, Lingnan will strive to become a world-class liberal arts institution rooted in Hong Kong.

In recognition of his numerous and important contributions to the local community, Dr Chiu Hin-kwong was appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1987 and awarded an OBE in 1988.

Mr Visitor, for his unswerving determination, and for his untiring efforts in contributing to the development of local medical, health, educational, and public services, may I present Dr Chiu Hin-kwong for the award of the Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.



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