

Dr Fong Yun-wah

Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa

Citation

Dr Fong Yun-wah is Chairman of the Hip Shing Hong Group of Companies and his two family foundations: the Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation and the Fong's Family Foundation. Born in Heyuan, Guangdong, Dr Fong came to Hong Kong when he was five years old. He was forced to leave school when Japanese occupation of Hong Kong began in 1941. That year he was attending junior secondary school. Very much influenced by his late father, Mr Fong Shu-chuen, Dr Fong has a strong passion for helping others, particularly in educating under-privileged children from needy families with the hope of lifting them from poverty. Reflecting on his belief and commitment to support education, he said, "The promotion of education is a long term undertaking. My work today is like the sowing of seeds for the future. The impact of education is not confined to the existing generation, but never-ending."

The Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation was established by Mr Fong Shu-chuen in 1970 as a charitable organisation to support education and technological development, cultural exchanges, health care and disaster relief efforts in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Dr Fong Yun-wah has followed the footsteps of his father in setting up his own Fong's Family Foundation. In China alone, The Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation and the Fong's Family Foundation have so far set up Hope Projects at 97 schools, including 12 kindergartens, 58 primary schools, and 27 secondary schools, as well as numerous libraries at other primary and secondary schools, and industrial and vocational training centres across different provinces and minorities autonomous regions. In addition, donations for the construction of auditoriums, lecture halls and computer centres, as well as scholarship funds have been provided to over 80 Mainland institutions of higher learning, including Peking University, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Nanking University, ... etc. Dr Fong sees the development of science and technology (aeronautics in particular) as top priority while providing support to the tertiary sector. His strong devotion and contributions to education have earned him the honour in 1997 as one of the "Top Ten Poverty Aid Contributors", an award presented by the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and the *China Comment* magazine published by the Xinhua News Agency.

Dr Fong's service and commitment to education and philanthropy in Hong Kong are reflected in his contributions to all of the eight UGC-funded higher education institutions and The Open University of Hong Kong, as well as non-profit organisations such as Po Leung Kuk, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Hong Kong Society for the Aged etc. As Dr Fong said, "A fixed percentage of all profits from the family business is allocated to the Foundations and the funds are dedicated specifically for educational and other charitable undertakings. I hope my children and grandchildren will hold the same vision, so that we can carry on generation after generation with the ever-lasting persistence similar to the parable of 'Yugong moving the mountain'."

Dr Fong is now semi-retired from his family business, thus enabling him to devote more time and effort to the Foundations. In his new role, Dr Fong is in daily contact with schools on the Mainland. He handles many of the daily matters by himself, which reflects his passion and devotion for education. He smiles in satisfaction when he mentions the bundles of letters he has received from students supported through his Foundations. Nothing encourages him more than seeing the success of students he has helped.

Besides the building of schools, Dr Fong Yun-wah is very keen on promoting individual growth and Chinese culture. He himself has edited pamphlets and publications encouraging ways of living a positive and healthy life. On the Website of the Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation, there is a section where Dr Fong candidly shares his life experience and principles for viewers to consider and appreciate. Dr Fong grew up in hard times, and owes much of his success to dedication, hard work and persistence. The more he gets involved with charitable activities, the more he realises that he had to look out and care for the under-privileged, particularly the young and the poor. Today his contributions are widely recognised, but he is still a low-key and humble person committed to doing what he regards as meaningful.

His contribution to community development extends much beyond just financial donations. He contributes wholeheartedly in assuming senior honorary positions in several leading charitable organizations. For example, he has been an Advisory Board Member of the Hong Kong Red Cross for over 20 years, a former Chairman of the Po Leung Kuk, and a former Principal Director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

For his contributions to Hong Kong, Dr Fong was made a Justice of Peace and Member of the British Empire, and awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He has received Honorary Doctorates in Letters, Business Administration, Laws, and Social Sciences from various local, national and overseas universities. In addition to that, Dr Fong has also been appointed as Consultant Professor and Honorary Professor by numerous universities. In recognition of his support for science and scholarship, a comet (Asteroid 5198) was named after him in 1994 at the Purple Mountain Observatory under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It is called the "Fong Yun Wah Star".

Dr Fong has also been awarded the titles of Honorary Citizen for eleven cities in China, Canada and the United States, including the City of Plains, Georgia, City of Corpus Christi, Texas, in the USA; City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; and City of Dongguan, and City of Heyuan, Guangdong Province, China, as well as five other cities in the provinces of Fujian, Gansu, Henan, Xinjiang and Nanchang.

Mr Chairman, Dr Fong is one of Hong Kong's eminent businessmen and philanthropists, who tirelessly dedicates himself to promoting education and helping the poor. May I now present Dr Fong Yun-wah to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *Honoris Causa*.

方潤華博士



榮譽社會科學博士

贊詞

方潤華博士現為協成行集團主席，亦為方樹福堂基金及方潤華基金兩個家族基金的主席。方博士生於廣東省河源市，五歲時移居香港，1941年日軍侵佔香港時他正就讀初中，被迫輟學。受其先父方樹泉先生的薰陶，方博士為人熱心公益，積極襄助他人，特別是幫助貧苦家庭的孩子接受教育，希望協助他們脫離貧困。談到本身的信念和作育英才的熱忱，方博士表示：「推動教育是一項長遠事業，現在撒下種籽，日後才有開花結果的一天。教育的影響力跨越世代代，其精神將延續不斷。」

方樹福堂基金是方樹泉先生於1970年成立的慈善機構，一直積極推動中港兩地教育、技術發展及文化交流，並致力改善醫療質素，救災扶貧，而方潤華博士亦秉承父親的宏願，成立方潤華基金。至目前為止，方樹福堂基金及方潤華基金單在內地已為97所學校展開希望工程，當中包括12間幼兒園、58間小學及27間中學，並於多個省份和自治區為多間中小學設立圖書館，以及興建職業培訓中心。此外，方博士亦捐助內地80多間專上院校，興建禮堂、演講廳、電腦中心，並設立獎學金，受惠的院校包括北京大學、清華大學、浙江大學、南京大學等。在扶植高等教育的同時，方博士更把推動科技(尤其航天科技)的發展視為首要重任。方博士對教育，尤其是在扶貧教育方面作出了重大貢獻。1997年，中國扶貧基金會及新華通訊社屬下《半月談》雜誌社選先生為「十大扶貧狀元」，這項殊榮可說實至名歸。

方博士除捐助本港8間公立高等院校和香港公開大學外，亦不遺餘力捐助予保良局、東華三院、香港耆康老人福利會等非牟利機構，為香港的教育及公益事業貢獻良多。方博士曾言：「我們將家族生意所得利潤的某一固定份額撥入基金，用作教育及其他慈善用途。基金將一代一代的傳下去，希望我的兒孫亦有同樣的志向，就如愚公移山的堅毅精神，延續不斷。」這項仁風之舉，極令人欽佩！

方博士已將部份家族生意轉交後輩，以便投入更多時間和精力處理基金事務。現在，他每天與內地的學校聯繫，親自處理日常事務，對教育的熱誠仍然絲毫不減。當提及收到受資助學生寄來的一大疊信件時，方博士臉上不禁泛起滿足的笑容。他說，看見受資助學生學有所成，是他最感欣慰的事情。

除興建學校外，方潤華博士亦積極推動個人發展，弘揚中國文化，過去曾編著多部小冊子及刊物，提倡積極健康的生活方式。方博士亦在方樹福堂基金的網站上，與讀者分享他的人生點滴和處事原則。方博士生於艱苦的年代，今天的成就全憑他滿腔熱誠，加上堅毅和努力積聚而成。他愈積極投入公益活動，便愈發覺需要關懷弱勢社群，特別是那些年幼貧苦的人。今天，社會各界都肯定了方博士的成就與貢獻，但他依舊謙遜如昔，只為自己認為有意義的事默默耕耘。

方博士對社會的貢獻遠不止於金錢上的捐助，他還身體力行義務擔任多個慈善機構的重要職務。他出任香港紅十字會委員至今逾廿載，並曾擔任保良局主席及東華三院首總理。

基於方博士對香港社會的傑出貢獻，曾先後獲授太平紳士、MBE勳銜，並獲香港特別行政區政府頒發銀紫荊星章。此外，他亦獲得本地及國內外多間大學頒授文學、工商管理、法學和社會科學榮譽博士學位，以及多間大學聘任顧問教授、名譽教授等。中國科學院紫金山天文台更於1994年將5198號小行星命名為「方潤華星」，以表揚方博士設立獎學金支持科學發展的善舉。

此外，方博士也是中國、加拿大及美國11個城市的榮譽市民，這些城市包括美國喬治亞州的平原市、德克薩斯州的基斯德市、加拿大曼尼托巴省的溫尼伯市，以及內地若干城市如廣東的東莞、河源市，河南的許昌、禹州市，福建的莆田市，甘肅的敦煌市，新疆的吐魯番及江西南昌等城市。

主席先生，方博士為香港著名商家及慈善家，他不辭勞苦，全力推動各地的教育發展，積極協助貧苦大眾。本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予方潤華博士。