

Mr Chan Wai-nam, BBS

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Chan Wai-nam was born in Chaozhou, Guangdong, in 1919. In 1936, he graduated from Hanshan Normal University in Guangdong Province, and the following year he moved to Hong Kong as a job seeker. When Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in 1941, Mr Chan returned to his hometown, but after the war, he moved back to Hong Kong, where he established the Singapore Trading Company Limited in 1947, and, in 1964, the Ping Shan Enterprise Company Limited. He ran animal husbandry and food businesses, becoming a successful Teochew entrepreneur.

Although Mr Chan achieved tremendous success with the businesses he started and built up in Hong Kong, his heart has always remained in his hometown. Over the years, he has made contributions and significant donations to Chaozhou and the people there, actively promoting culture and education, and nurturing talent throughout the region. An enthusiastic philanthropist, Mr Chan has supported projects such as Baoshan Middle School in Chao'an District, Shaxi Overseas Chinese Hospital, Hanshan Normal University, Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole Chaozhou, Chaozhou-Hanjiang Bridge and Chaozhou Stadium. He has also set up numerous charitable trusts for disaster relief, poverty alleviation, medical care, and cultural education.

In late 2020, Chan Wai Nam Cultural Center became the newest cultural landmark in Chaozhou's old town. Its design, based on traditional Teochew house, was the idea of Mr Chan and other leading figures from the Teochew community in Hong Kong. There is an exhibition that tells Mr Chan's life story covering his contributions to public welfare, education, the Chinese and overseas Chinese, and Teochew culture.

A decent man, Mr Chan is grateful, honest, altruistic and highly respected by Chaoshan scholars, who call his way of thinking "Wai Nam spirit". He believes that "the value of life is in what you give", a philosophy that is widely recognised by his compatriots at home and abroad. The Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has named asteroid 8126 "Chanwainam" in recognition of his philanthropy and immense contribution to cultural education.

Hong Kong has become Mr Chan's second home. He exemplifies the contribution Teochew people have made to Hong Kong society. After working tirelessly for many years and inspired by "the great power in solidarity", Mr Chan founded the Federation of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Community Organizations in 2001. The Federation unites Hong Kong's diverse Teochew organisations and provides a platform to enhance exchanges and collaborations between Hong Kong and the Mainland. It also supports the development of the four major cities in Eastern Guangdong. Its accomplishments have been magnificent. Mr Chan's son, Dr Ian Chan Yau Nam, is also actively involved with the Federation. Father and son have a common vision: bringing glory to the Teochew people.

To that end, Mr Chan supports universities in Hong Kong to promote Chaoshan culture and nurture talents in Eastern Guangdong. In 2012, to support Lingnan University's four-year university curriculum, Mr Chan donated funds in the name of his son to establish the Dr Ian Chan Yau Nam Hostel Bursaries to allow less privileged students to enjoy hostel life and fully experience the liberal arts education on campus. Mr Chan also contributed to the construction of the Chan Wai Nam Function Hall, which provides better teaching venues and facilities for Lingnan students under the new academic structure, displaying the Wai Nam spirit and nurturing the next generation.

Mr Chan's benevolence, compassion, and generosity help keep him happy and healthy. He still takes care of himself, and remains chairman of his company although he is a centenarian. He insists on going to his office every day to maintain his physical and mental vitality, and the secrets of his longevity are early to bed and early to rise, making proactive contributions, and aging with confidence.

Mr Chan "loves China, Hong Kong and his hometown", and for many years he has devoted himself to giving back to China, making contributions to Hong Kong, and bettering his hometown. He is a shining example of a Confucian Teochew entrepreneur, Mr Chairman, and I hereby present Mr Chan Wai-nam for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Lau Chi-pang

陳偉南先生

榮譽院士

贊辭

陳偉南先生於 1919 年生於廣東潮州，1936 年於廣東省立韓山師範學校畢業，翌年來港打工。香港淪陷之後，陳先生回鄉避難，抗戰勝利後再度赴港，並於 1947 年成立星洲貿易有限公司，正式在香港開展事業。1964 年，陳先生創立屏山企業有限公司，經營飼料及食品業務，成為香港一位成功的潮籍企業家。

陳先生在港開基立業，卓然有成，並一直心繫故里；多年來回饋家鄉，造福桑梓。陳先生在潮汕地區興學育才，崇文重教，熱心社群，捐助的項目包括潮安區寶山中學、沙溪華僑醫院、韓山師範學院、潮州市饒宗頤學術館、潮州韓江大橋、潮州市體育館等。他又設立多個基金，用於救災扶貧、贈醫施藥、推動文化教育。

2020 年底，陳先生故鄉潮州市古城區建成「陳偉南文化館」，是潮州最新的文化地標。這座帶有潮州建築風格的庭園是陳先生和香港潮籍僑領的心血結晶，展示陳先生的奮鬥歷程和慈善事業，涵蓋公益教育、華僑華人、潮人文化等主題，意義深遠。

陳先生感恩重德、誠信樂善、無私奉獻，潮汕地區的鄉賢將這種精神贊譽為「偉南精神」。他倡導的「人生價值在於奉獻」的生命哲理也得到海內外同胞的廣泛認同；中國科學院紫金山天文台更因此將 8126 號小行星命名為「陳偉南星」，以表彰陳先生在文化教育和慈善事業上的重大貢獻。

香港是陳先生的另一個故鄉。此地潮籍人士遍佈港九各界，推動香港社會發展建樹良多。陳先生在香港打拼多年，有感「團結力量大」的道理，遂於 2001 年創立香港潮屬社團總會，匯聚在港各界潮籍社團會員力量，促進香港與內地的交往與合作，以配合及支持潮汕四市的發展，成績斐然。在陳先生的栽培和影響下，其哲嗣陳幼南博士亦積極主持香港潮屬社團總會會務；父子同心光大潮人門楣，可謂潮籍人士典範之家。

陳先生亦曾捐助香港多所大學，以推廣潮汕文化，並以大學為基地培訓粵東地區的人才。2012 年，陳先生為支持嶺南大學推行四年制大學課程，捐資成立「陳幼南博士助宿金」，援助有經濟需要的學生投入舍堂生活，以體驗在校寄宿的博雅教育。陳先生又捐建「陳偉南會堂」，貫徹「為培育下一代出一分力」的「偉南精神」，為新學制的嶺大學生提供更完備的教學場所和設施。

陳先生懿德仁心，樂善好施，這正是他快樂健康的源泉。他凡事親力親為，年屆期頤仍然擔任公司董事長一職，堅持每天上班工作，並以此保持身心活力。他的長壽秘訣是早睡早起，積極奉獻，老有所為。

陳偉南先生「愛國、愛港、愛家鄉」，多年來致力回報國家、貢獻香港、造福家鄉，是潮籍儒商的楷模。主席先生，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予陳偉南先生。

贊辭由劉智鵬教授撰寫及宣讀