

Mr Chan Wo-ping

Mr Chan Wo-ping, Managing Director of AR Consultant Services, is a distinguished insurance practitioner and a firm believer in education.

Born in 1955, Mr Chan is a classic example of a self-made man, and his personal advancement aligns with the story of Hong Kong's rise to prosperity. Coming from a humble background and possessing only primary education qualifications, Mr Chan took to the streets and, through patience, hard work, devotion and a bit of "street learning", became a successful businessman.

His career in the insurance industry started in 1976, when he enrolled in a part-time day release course, *Proficiency in Insurance*, offered by the former Hong Kong Polytechnic and the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers. This turned out to be a life-changing opportunity. Under the mentorship of experienced course instructors who were also senior insurance executives dedicated to giving something back to their profession, Mr Chan thrived in his early career. Soon, Mr Chan worked his way up from a trainee in a local insurance company to the Managing Director of AR Consultant Services, a reinsurance broker he founded in 1989. And, with the support of several long-term business partners, including local banks and insurance companies, as well as global insurance corporations, Mr Chan co-founded BC Reinsurance and BE Reinsurance in 2000 and 2015 respectively.

In his 41 years of experience in the insurance industry, Mr Chan has developed a profound philosophy of success. Despite living in a changing world defined by risk where, as he often says, "nothing is safe or secure", Mr Chan advocates integrity and loyalty as the keys for success, both in business and in life. Not only does he believe integrity to be the foundation of an organisation's reputation; he also promotes the showing of gratitude and appreciation towards benefactors.

Inspired by his mentors, many of whom are still his close friends and business partners, Mr Chan aspires to give back to society and to the profession that has offered him countless challenges and opportunities.

Twenty years ago, he had already started conceiving, planning and creating a scholarship programme that would benefit students and young talents in the insurance industry in Hong Kong. In 2011, collaborating with business partners who shared the same vision, Mr Chan founded the AR Charitable Foundation, with an objective, *inter alia*, to provide financial support and mentorship to undergraduate students who are prospective members of the field. Together, they envision the fostering of local talents with continuous and sustainable training in the practicalities of the insurance industry.

The AR Charitable Foundation sponsorship includes funding for students' local and overseas tuition and accommodation. In addition to funding selected students who are enrolled in Lingnan University's Risk and Insurance Management (RIM) Programme, it is also funding eligible talents to enrol in the Master of Science Programme in Insurance and Risk Management at the Cass Business School of City University London.

Since the inception of the Scholarship, dozens of Lingnan students under the RIM Programme have benefited both on an undergraduate and a graduate level. The Foundation has already committed \$10 million to support the Scholarship up to 2020/21 and Mr Chan hopes to continue with similar support to nurture prospective members of the industry beyond 2021.

There is no doubt that the Foundation is achieving its objective to develop a generation of talents who can become successful practitioners in the insurance industry in Hong Kong. Through the establishment of the Foundation, Mr Chan has once again put his belief into practice — to give back and contribute to society and his profession through sponsoring education.

Mr Chairman, for his contributions to the insurance industry and the community, for his distinguished service to society and passionate commitment to education, may I present Mr Chan Wo-ping to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation written and delivered by Professor Elizabeth Ho