

Mr Thomas Jefferson WU

Mr Thomas Wu is the son of Sir Gordon Wu, and is currently the Managing Director of Hopewell Holdings Limited and Hopewell Highway Infrastructure Limited. While he has certainly benefited from his family background—with its refined culture and particularly a father who is well known for his sharp vision and entrepreneurial spirit—Mr Wu is certainly a high achiever, a community leader, and a global leader in his own right. Academically, he holds a BSc in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering with high honours from Princeton University and an MBA from Stanford University. In public service, he serves as a committee member of Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the 11th Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, a Standing Committee member and a member of the Huadu District Committee of The Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. He is a member of Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service of the HKSAR Government, a board member of the Asian Youth Orchestra Limited and a member of the Business School Advisory Council of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He was also a former member of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Sports Institute Limited and the Steering Committee on the Promotion of Electric Vehicles of the HKSAR Government, a former court member of The HKUST and a former council member of both The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Of all public services that he has rendered to Hong Kong, however, promoting ice hockey is the one that has taken up most of his time and energy. Mr Wu found his passion back in 2000, when he played ice hockey for the first time. Since then he has devoted much of his spare time both as a player and a promoter of the sport. He is passionate for the sport, and his eyes glow when he mentions that the Hong Kong team is now competing at international level and is recognised as a serious contender for titles. Mr Wu is Vice President (Asia & Oceania) of the International Ice Hockey Federation, Co-founder and Chairman of the Hong Kong Amateur Hockey Club Limited and the Founder and Chairman of the Hong Kong Academy of Ice Hockey Ltd. He is also Honorary President of the Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association Limited—the national sports association of ice hockey in Hong Kong, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Ice Hockey Association, Honorary President of the Macau Ice Sports Federation and Honorary Chairman of the Ice Hockey Association of Taipei Municipal Athletics Federation.

As a “Young Global Leader”—a title given to him by World Economic Forum in 2006, Mr Wu thinks that one of the top issues the world has to tackle is inequality, which he thinks could breed social and political instability. Dealing with the problem effectively is a top challenge every government has to face. He also thinks that world leaders must work together to deal with a range of important and urgent global issues.

Mr Wu is particularly concerned about Hong Kong, which has been embroiled in various contradictions and seems to be losing a sense of direction. He even used the word “schizophrenic” to describe the situation. For example, he noted that everyone is complaining about the housing shortage, yet housing development projects are opposed almost everywhere. Hong Kong aspires to be competing with New York City and London, yet many Hong Kong people resist in seeing the mainland as its hinterland and capitalising on the opportunities that could come with closer integration. Still, Mr Wu sees Hong Kong’s young people as talented and as capable as ever. His company has been running a Management Trainee programme for 9 years, and recruits about 3 to 6 candidates per year. This programme offers trainees a fast track to real management tasks, and has attracted an increasing number of applicants—the latest round having attracted nearly 3000 applicants.

Of all the qualities in management trainees that are sought after, Mr Wu believes that motivation and drive are the most important. Young people need to know what they are after and strive for their goals wholeheartedly and diligently. Regarding the performance of the HKSAR Government, Mr Wu expresses sympathy for its policy makers. Hong Kong is hampered by too many conflicting interests to form a consensus; whichever way the government goes it will inevitably attract criticism. Still, he thinks that there is an excessive concern on the part of policy makers about being accused of colluding with businesses such that they have become less proactive than otherwise, to the detriment of Hong Kong’s interests.

Although Mr Wu has such a hectic life, he is on top of all of his challenges. Just as in ice hockey, his key to success is team work. As a business leader, he understands the importance of delegation and trust. He was named “Asia’s Best CEO (Investor Relations)” in 2012, 2013 and 2014. He strongly believes in strong corporate governance, and was given the “Director of the Year Award 2010” by the Hong Kong Institute of Directors, the “2nd, 3rd and 4th Asian Corporate Director Recognition Award” by *Corporate Governance Asia* in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. He is aware of the problems associated with a lack of insight into the long-term interests of the company. Short-term gains just will not pay off; this is something business executives should be reminded of constantly.

Mr Chairman, for his contributions to the business community, for his distinguished service to society, and for his passionate support for ice hockey, may I present Mr Thomas Jefferson Wu to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation written and delivered by Prof Ho Lok-sang