

## Mr Tin Ka-ping

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*  
Citation

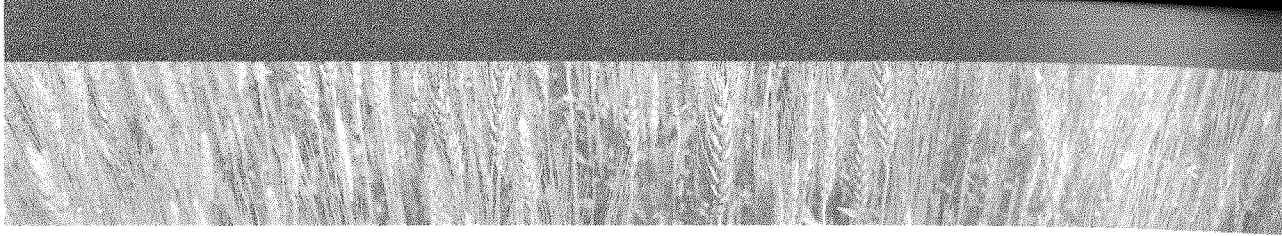
Mr Tin Ka-ping was born in 1919 to a well-educated Hakka family of Dabu Province, Guangdong. His father, Mr Tin Yuk-wu was a merchant and widely respected by his contemporaries for his charities. Under the influence of his father, the young Mr Tin Ka Ping learned to follow the Confucian teachings expounded in Zhu Bolu's *Aphorism for Managing a Household*. When Mr Tin reached the age of 16, his father passed away. In order to support the family, Mr Tin had to discontinue his studies and carry on his father's business. Two years later, Mr Tin went to Vietnam and set up a porcelain factory that soon became a highly successful business. Subsequently, owing to the Japanese invasion of Guangdong, Mr Tin moved to Indonesia and entered into the rubber industry. There he established the Tjauw Loen Rubber Factory and the Nanyang Rubber Industrial Company Limited. Eventually he shifted his business to plastics and set up the first plastics enterprise in Indonesia.

In 1958, on the eve of the outbreak of an anti-Chinese campaign in Indonesia, Mr Tin made an abrupt decision to discontinue his highly promising business and migrate to Hong Kong. Mr Tin chose to restore his career in Tuen Mun and erected his Tin's Chemical Industrial Estate by the seaside of Castle Peak Bay. This 30,000-square-metre industrial estate has helped to establishing Mr Tin's leading role in the plastic film and synthetic leather industry, and eventually made him the "King of Synthetic Leather" among Hong Kong's industrialists. In 1990, Mr Tin extended his production plants to Dongguan and Guangzhou, thereby providing a stronger financial base to support his charitable efforts all over China.

In 1982, Mr Tin established the K P Tin Foundation. The objectives of the Foundation are to comfort the elderly and to support the young, to build schools and to cultivate talent, to promote culture and education, to contribute to the well-being of the people, to repay the community, and to contribute to the country. The Foundation to date has donated more than one billion Hong Kong dollars to countless beneficiaries in the 34 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities of China. Major beneficiaries include over 60 tertiary institutions (mainly normal universities or education faculties), over 120 secondary schools, over 1,000 school libraries, over 30 hospitals, over 100 bridges, and other public amenities such as roads, a sports complex, a radio and television broadcasting centre, waterworks, and hydro-electric stations. The Foundation has also supported activities that promote science and technology exchange. It funded, among other projects, the building of the Biological Specimen Hall of the Natural Science Museum in Beijing, and the Astronomical Science Exchange Centre at the Zijin Shan Observatory under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Nanjing.

Among the many contributions he has made to charities, Mr Tin has a special concern for education. He strongly believes that the future of China lies in education, and that education must be built on the foundation of moral education. To this end, Mr Tin emphasizes the importance of teacher training. He sponsored the Ministry of Education in organizing a project on the reform of the structure and content of teachers' training programmes in higher education in the 21st century. He has also funded each and every normal university across the nation. Moreover, Mr Tin also insists on visiting the many secondary schools and tertiary institutions funded by the Foundation to exchange his experiences with teachers and students. Up until this fall, he has reached almost every corner of China except Tibet.

Mr Tin has made the promotion of education his lifelong commitment. The Asian financial crisis in 1997 hit the revenue of Mr. Tin's Foundation. In 2001, despite the downturn of the real estate market, Mr Tin sold his Kowloon Tong house, in which he has lived for more than thirty years, at about half of its pre-1997 market value. He rented an apartment for himself and his wife and put all the money generated from



the sale of his house to school building projects on the Mainland. Two years later, he even arranged a bank loan to support fundraising campaigns of some local universities. For his unprecedented philanthropic act, Mr Tin has received much public praise in Hong Kong and on the Mainland.

Over the past few decades, Mr Tin has been highly commended for his spirit of charity and absolute selflessness. In 1982, he was awarded the Badge of Honours. In 1988, he was awarded a golden plaque by the highest authority of Taiwan in recognition of his support of charity. In 1993, the International Asteroid Centre named the asteroid 2886 discovered by the Zijin Shan Observatory in Nanjing the Tin Ka Ping Star, and made Mr Tin the fifth outstanding Chinese to win such a distinguished honour. In 1996, Mr Tin was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). Scores of universities in Hong Kong and on the Mainland have bestowed on him honorary degrees, fellowships, deanships, presidencies, professorships, and adviserships. He has also received honorary citizenships from over 50 provinces, cities and prefectures on the Mainland.

As Mr Tin has established his chemical industry empire in Tuen Mun, he has shown special concern for Lingnan University. He contributed to the construction of Lingnan University Tuen Mun campus in 1995. As a token of the University's profound appreciation, the swimming pool is named after Mr Tin in recognition of his generosity and contributions to the University. Mr Tin later set up the "Lingnan University Tin Ka Ping Bursaries and Loans" to support students who excel in studies cum demonstration of high moral standards but have financial difficulties. To express his appreciation of Lingnan's accomplishment, Mr Tin even personally participated in a student forum and spoke highly of Lingnan's liberal arts education.

Mr Tin's outstanding achievements in the promotion of charity and education have set a fine example for his time and for younger generations. Mr Chancellor, in recognition of his great contribution to the community and to Lingnan University, may I present Mr Tin Ka-ping to you for the award of the degree of Doctor of Law *honoris causa*.

# 田家炳先生

榮譽法學博士

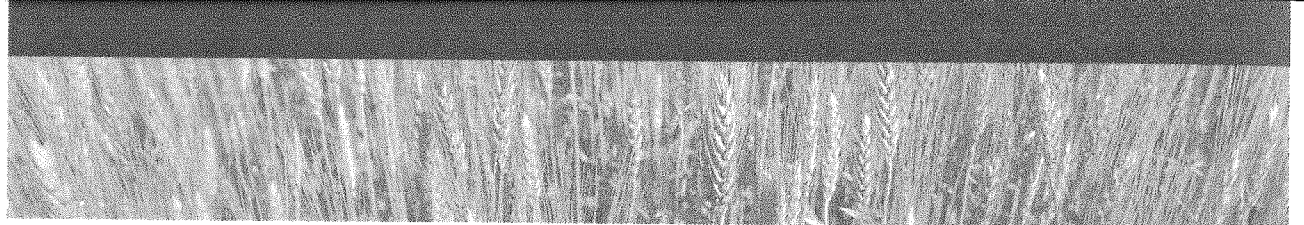
贊辭

田家炳先生生於1919年，祖籍廣東大埔，出身客家世裔。其先翁玉瑚公為當地殷商，以製銷磚瓦經營雜貨為業。玉瑚公處世則樂善好施，德高望重；在家則耳提面命，訓子有方。先生年幼時適值軍閥割據，銀幣流通不廣；玉瑚公遂自製竹籌片為代幣以解民困，居然一時風行，可見其為人誠信，人格高尚。先生幼承庭訓，以《朱柏廬治家格言》律己養志，向慕古聖賢忠孝節義之高行；從此勤奮進取，涵養成胸懷濟世，當仁不讓的處世精神。大埔有南洋華僑捐建一所中學，先生肄業期間，深為華僑之善行所動，由此萌發日後興學育才的偉業。先生十六歲時玉瑚公逝世，不得已輟學以肩負持家的重擔。兩年後先生遠赴越南創辦茶陽瓷土公司，業績斐然。後因戰禍而轉往印尼發展，創辦超倫、南洋兩間橡膠廠；不久轉辦塑料工業，成立印尼第一家塑料廠。

1958年印尼醞釀排華，先生當機立斷，毅然結束如日方中的事業，舉家定居香港另謀發展。先生抵港後獨具慧眼，選定當時尚未開發為新市鎮的屯門為發展基地，建造面積達三萬平方米的化工王國，成立田氏化工有限公司生產塑料薄膜和人造皮革。1960年秋，田氏工業城巍然矗立青山灣畔，自此奠立先生「人造皮革大王」的地位。1990年，先生將田氏化工有限公司之業務擴展至廣東，分別於東莞及廣州建設廠房。田氏化工的鴻圖偉業為先生的公益事業打下了堅實的基礎。

田先生濟世為懷，樂善好施，對推動教育事業尤其身體力行，不甘後人。1982年，先生本著「安老扶幼、興學育才、推廣文教、造福人群、回饋社會、貢獻國家」的宗旨，成立「田家炳基金會」，自創始至今捐助金額已逾十億港元，受惠的慈善項目不計其數，包括全國34個省、自治區、直轄市內的高等院校60餘所(主要為捐建師範學院)、中學120餘所、幼兒園及托兒所10餘所、圖書室1,000餘所、醫院30餘所、橋樑百多座、道路多條，以及大型體育中心、廣播電視中心、自來水廠、水力發電廠等。此外，基金會又著力推動科技交流活動，先後捐建北京市自然博物館生物標本館，以及南京市中國科學院紫金山天文台天文科學交流中心等。

田先生生平修身立品，推己及人，對德育尤為重視。先生認為中國的希望在教育，而教育必首重德育，以培養高尚完美的人格。為此先生特別熱心推動師範教育，不但資助國家教育部建設「高等師範教育面向二十一世紀教學內容和課程體系改革計劃」，更捐助全國每一所師範大學設立發展項目。先生除了出資捐助，更堅持到訪基金會資助的每所大學及中學，與師生交流處世為人的道理，親自實踐人格教育的理想。直至今年秋天為止，除了西藏之外，先生的足跡已經遍佈各省市，堪稱全國的公益楷模。



田先生對於推動教育事業義無反顧。1997年發生亞洲金融風暴，田氏基金收益受影響。2001年先生不惜以5,600萬元出售其自住三十多年、1997年前時價逾億元的九龍塘豪宅，將收入悉數撥入基金，目的在兌現對內地各省市多項教育計劃的承諾，而先生自己則另行租屋以度晚年。先生之「賣屋、租屋與捐資助學的情懷」，令人敬佩不已。另外，先生又於2003年向銀行籌集資金以捐助本地高等院校，為香港公益事業中絕無僅有的義舉。先生如此隆情高誼，一時傳為佳話，贏得社會各方的稱頌。

先生於1982年獲頒英女皇榮譽獎章，1988年獲台灣最高當局頒授「熱心公益」金匾。1993年，國際小行星中心將南京紫金山天文台發現的2886號小行星命名為「田家炳星」，是我國當時第五位獲此殊榮的傑出人士。1996年，英女皇授予英帝國員佐勳章(MBE)。中國內地及香港多所大學先後授予先生榮譽博士、院士、院長、校長、教授、以及顧問等殊榮。此外，先生博施濟眾，澤被萬方，榮獲內地50多個省、市、縣榮譽公民、榮譽市民稱號。

田先生建業屯門，因此格外關懷喬遷此地的嶺南大學。自嶺南大學籌建新校舍至今，先生不但慨捐鉅款興建泳池及其他設施；又成立「嶺南大學田家炳助學貸款計劃」，免息貸款予家境清貧而品學良好的學生。先生不但對嶺南大學鏗而不舍推動博雅教育深表認同，更曾親自出席嶺南大學校風論壇，公開發表言論支持嶺南大學推行提升學生素質的措施，高度讚揚嶺南大學博雅教育的實踐。

田先生白手興家，成就卓越，數十年來熱心推動教育，惠澤社群，誠為當世楷模，社會表率。我謹此恭請監督先生頒授榮譽法學博士學位予田家炳先生，以表揚他對本地區高等院校及社會的重要貢獻。