

**Professor Woo Chia-wei, GBS, CBE,
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa***

Citation

A great leader of a society must have grand visions and strong capability of execution. Very few people have both and that is why we do not see many great leaders. Professor Woo Chia-wei possesses both. On the vision side, he was the first person to propose the Hong Kong Bay Area in the 1990s, a concept leading to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) of today. On the execution side, he was the founding president of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and led the university to world-class caliber within a short period of time.

Professor Woo was born in Shanghai, grew up in Hong Kong, and received higher education in the US. He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Mathematics at Georgetown College in Kentucky. He received his Master of Arts and PhD degrees in Physics at Washington University, St Louis. He has taught at Northwestern University, University of Illinois, and University of California, San Diego. In 1979, he was appointed Provost of the Revelle College at University of California, San Diego, and in 1983, at the age of 45, he became President of San Francisco State University, the first ethnic Chinese to head a major university in the US.

Professor Woo has published many academic papers and books in various fields of Physics. He received many awards for his professional achievements, including Fellowship of the American Physical Society, Fellowship of the California Academy of Sciences, the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, and Honorary Professorships at Fudan University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenzhen University, and Peking University. He also received many honours for his contributions to society, including the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the United Nations Association, the Golden Key to the City from the mayor of San Francisco, Honorary Citizen from the Municipal Government of Shenzhen, an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Washington University, an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree from HKUST, a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) from Queen Elizabeth II, the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) from the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) award from the President of France.

In the mid-1980s, Professor Woo was given an impossible mission. He was invited to build a brand-new university, namely, the HKUST, in his home town. It was a time when many people were leaving or preparing to leave the city. He had to swim against the current. He also had to persuade many first-rate scholars from the US and other western countries to come to Hong Kong. And they knew they were not coming to

join a well-established university in a stable environment, but to build a university from scratch in an unstable environment in an unfamiliar city. However, owing to his passion and friendship, Professor Woo was able to convince many world-class scholars across the fields of science, engineering, and business to join him. He achieved the first part of the impossible mission.

Recruiting top talent is only a necessary but not a sufficient condition to building a high-quality university. Indeed, there were both challenges and opportunities. A brand-new university has no historical burden. HKUST was a blank canvas for Professor Woo and his colleagues to paint a colourful picture on. However, conflicts and difficulties were more apparent: nobody had heard of HKUST, faculty members came from different cultural backgrounds, the Hong Kong education system was very different from the American, with which most of the firstcomers were familiar, among others. Although nobody expected much, the truth is that HKUST skyrocketed into top positions in university rankings in many fields. In doing so, it captured the world's attention. It helped elevate the quality of higher education not only in Hong Kong, but also around Asia. That is how Professor Woo achieved the second part of the impossible mission.

Professor Woo's mission impossible can be understood in context. At the global level, China launched the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013. At the regional level, the Central Government of China announced the establishment of the GBA in 2017. The GBA includes Hong Kong, Macao and nine municipalities in Guangdong Province. Recall that about 30 years ago (in the early 1990s), Professor Woo had proposed the concept of the Hong Kong Bay Area as a driver of the economic development of the Pearl River Delta. This concept captured the attention of Shenzhen's leadership, and later inspired the Shenzhen-Hongkong Bay Area. Thus, Professor Woo is considered the "father" of the Shenzhen-Hongkong Bay Area, which is a shining pearl in the GBA.

Professor Woo continues to add to his legacy. He is thinking of making contributions to liberal arts education in China, which is in line with Lingnan University's mission. Mr Chairman, in recognition of his great contributions to society, especially to higher education in this region, I now present Professor Woo Chia-wei for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Larry Qiu Dongxiao

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榮譽社會科學博士

贊辭

一位偉大的社會領袖，必須高瞻遠矚，且要擁有出色的執行能力，但能兼具這兩種特質的人少之又少，因此超凡領袖實屬不可多得。吳家瑋教授則擁有上述兩種特質。就前瞻性而言，吳教授率先於1990年代提出「香港灣區」的概念，這一構想是今天粵港澳大灣區概念的雛形；在執行能力方面，他是香港科技大學的創校校長，任內帶領大學蓬勃發展，在短時間內讓科大一躍成為一所世界一流學府。

吳教授生於上海，在香港長大，其後負笈美國接受高等教育。他在肯塔基州佐治城學院取得物理與數學理學士學位，在聖路易斯華盛頓大學獲得物理學碩士及博士學位。吳教授曾在西北大學、伊利諾伊大學和聖迭戈加州大學任教。1979年，他擔任聖迭戈加州大學熱菲爾學院院長；1983年，他以45歲之齡擔任美國舊金山州立大學校長，成為首位美國著名大學的華裔校長。

吳教授在物理學不同領域論著頗豐，並因其專業成就而屢獲殊榮，被評選為美國物理學會院士、加州科學院院士、艾爾弗•斯隆研究獎得主，並獲頒復旦大學、中國科學院、深圳大學和北京大學的名譽教授。他對社會貢獻卓越，獲得多項榮譽，包括聯合國協會的羅斯福夫人人道獎、三藩市的金鑰匙、深圳市榮譽市民、華盛頓大學理學榮譽博士學位、香港科技大學工商管理學榮譽博士學位、英女皇頒授的大英帝國司令勳章、香港特別行政區政府頒發的金紫荊星章以及法國總統頒授的法國榮譽軍團騎士團勳章。

在1980年代中期，吳教授接受了一項「不可能的任務」，應邀在香港創立一所全新的大學，即香港科技大學。那時正值香港的移民潮，吳教授不得不逆流而上，遊說許多在美國和其他西方國家的一流學者來港。那些學者明白他們不是在一個穩定的環境加入一所知名的大學，而是要從零開始，在一個陌生城市及飄搖的環境中創建一所大學。憑着其熱誠和人脈，吳教授最終說服了科學、工程和商業等界別的眾多世界一流學者加入他的團隊，完成了不可能任務的第一部分。

廣納頂尖人才，只是打造頂級大學的必要條件，卻並非充份條件。誠然，挑戰往往與機遇並存。全新的大學沒有歷史包袱，如同一張白紙等待吳教授和他的同事在上面描繪五彩的圖畫。而種種困難更是此起彼落——香港科技大學名不見經傳；教職員來自不同的文化背景；香港教育體系與大多數教職員所熟悉的美國教育體系大相徑庭等等。儘管沒有人對科大抱有太大期望，但它竟成為世界上發展速度最快的年輕大學。在許多領域科大都獲得很高的排名，引起了國際關注，從而促進了香港和亞洲多個地區的高等教育質素的提升。吳教授因此完成了不可能任務的第二部分。

在全球層面，中國於2013年提出「一帶一路」倡議；在區域層面，中央政府於2017年宣布成立由香港、澳門和廣東省九個城市組成的大灣區。就後者而言，大約在30年前（1990年代初），吳教授就提出了香港灣區的概念，藉以帶動珠三角的經濟發展。這一概念深受深圳領導層的青睞，及後被稱為「深港灣區」，吳教授則被稱為「深港灣區」之父。

吳教授不遺餘力，現在正構思如何為中國的博雅教育作出貢獻，而這與嶺南大學所肩負的使命正好相契合。主席先生，為表彰他對社會，特別是對這地區高等教育的重大貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予吳家瑋教授。

贊辭由丘東曉教授撰寫及宣讀