

**DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES, *honoris causa***

Mrs Nellie FONG WONG Kut-man, GBS, JP



Mr Pro-Chancellor,

The value of one's life depends not on its length but on its breadth. For life to be rich and meaningful, it requires not only achievements in career but also impactful services for the wider community. If everyone has this belief and work towards it, our community will keep advancing for the betterment of human beings. Mrs Nellie Fong Wong Kut-man is an exemplar showcasing how life becomes meaningful and exciting by constant and earnest efforts at work and dedication in charity works for the needy.

Mrs Fong is a diligent and visionary professional accountant with outstanding achievements in her profession, public service and charity works. She is a fellow member of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and a member of the UK's Chartered Institute of Taxation.

Mrs Fong was born and raised in a family where her father was a professional accountant and her mother was a devoted Christian. Her inherent genes and family background shaped her professional career and her philanthropy later. After her secondary education at Belilios Public School, Mrs Fong left Hong Kong for the United Kingdom (UK) to study accountancy in 1968. Five years later, she returned to Hong Kong and joined Arthur Andersen, one of the top international accounting firms, to begin her career in accounting. Due to her diligence and outstanding performance, she rose to be a partner in only 8 years at her early thirties.

Besides hard work and ability, Mrs Fong is a forward thinking person with a strategic mindset. In late 1970s, China started to open up to the world. With a vision on the vast potential of the mainland market, Mrs Fong pioneered to work in China 5 days a week and just come back to Hong Kong for the weekend. Such move has a profound impact on her subsequent political career and charity work in China. Even though at that time

she could barely speak Putonghua, she made full preparation for each business meeting and provided a written script to facilitate participants' understanding of her points. Her diligent, enthusiastic and serious attitude impressed her business partners in the Mainland. What's more important, she impressed China's business and political communities on the importance and need to adopt Western accounting practices to integrate into the international economy. Throughout her work, she won the respect of many friends and developed a valuable personal network in China.

In 2002, Arthur Andersen's Hong Kong and China practice was merged with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) and Mrs Fong became the Chairperson of PWC China operations until she retired in 2007. Since then she started to fully devote her time to community services and charity works.

Mrs Fong has been very active in the political arena and public services. With her education in the UK, working experience in an American audit firm and early exposure to China's opening up environment, Mrs Fong was highly regarded by both Hong Kong and Chinese Governments. She was appointed by the Hong Kong Government as a member of the Urban Council and District Board during 1983-1989, and the Legislative Council from 1988 to 1991. In 1992, she was appointed as Hong Kong Affairs Advisor to the Chinese Government. Between 1993 and 1997, Mrs Fong served on the Preparatory Committee on Hong Kong's Transfer of Sovereignty to China and was the Convener of the Economic Subgroup. In 1995, Mrs Fong organised the Better Hong Kong Foundation and was Chairman of the Executive Committee from 1995 to 2001.

After the handover in 1997, Mrs Fong was appointed by the HKSAR Government as a member of the Executive Council (till 2002). During the period of 2003-2017, she also served on the 10th, 11th and 12th National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

One particular thing worth mentioning in Mrs Fong's political career is her engagement and contribution in modernization of state-owned enterprises (SOE). From 1999 to 2011, Mrs Fong had assisted the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) of the State Council in training leaders of important key state-owned enterprises and helped many state-owned enterprises to get overseas listing. With her assistance, the University collaborated with SASAC to organize a distance learning professional training programme for SOE senior executives during 2009 - 2014.

Mrs Fong's impactful achievements and contributions extend to charity works, especially in restoring vision of hundreds of thousands of cataract sufferers and training of China's ophthalmologists (specialist eye-doctors) in China's less developed provinces. In 1996, Mrs Fong started a charity project called "Lifeline Express", a hospital eye-train which travels to remote areas of Mainland China to provide free surgical operations to blind cataract patients. In 1997, Mrs Fong established the Lifeline Express Hong Kong Foundation, and then in 2002, organised the Chinese Foundation for Lifeline Express (of which she was the Executive Vice Chairman), a charity incorporated in China. Between 1997 and 2020, over 210,000 cataract patients have benefited from the free operations. The free operations are impactful as they not only change the patients' lives but also the future of their entire families. For every eye cured, a new life is given and a family is revived.

In 2005, Mrs Fong saw the need for training rural eye-doctors in mainland China to sustain the concept of putting hope in sight, and has gradually expanded the focus of Lifeline Express from simply providing cure to the training of eye-doctors in remote areas in China. She started building a network of eye centres in less developed provinces which provide continuous training to eye-doctors through telemedicine, the use of web laboratories and a training website. With her effort and support, the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) introduced its examination in Chinese, which is the first ever common examination for specialist doctors in China. Mrs Fong established an Awards system for the top three candidates in the ICO examinations and a Scholarship Fund to assist eye-doctors who have passed the ICO examinations to go overseas on a Fellowship programme. As of today, there are four eye-trains shuttling between rural areas in Mainland China operating on over 12,000 cataract patients every year. A total of 86 eye centers have been set up to continuously train rural eye-doctors and provide eye surgeries for poverty-stricken patients.

In 2006, Mrs Fong and her husband, Dr Eddy Fong, started the Fongs Foundation with their wealth, to fund the work of Lifeline Express as well as other charity projects such as disaster relief and village schools facility enhancement in rural parts of China.

In recent years, Mrs Fong's charity works further extend to painting art. From 2015, Mrs Fong started Young Artists Development Foundation which organizes painting lessons for 200 youths from underprivileged families each month and organizes a Territory-wide Painting day every year. In 2017, Mrs Fong organized "Ink Global" an exhibition which showcased 500 outstanding ink paintings from ink artists over the world.

Mrs Fong's dedication and various achievements have brought her wide recognition. In 1988, she was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and in 1999 was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star for her distinguished service to the Hong Kong public by the HKSAR Government. She also received several awards for her outstanding achievements in charity work, including the "Chinese Individual Charity Award" (2005) and "Outstanding Individual Award on Charity" (2008) by China's Ministry of Civic Administration, "Clinton Global Initiative Award" (2008) from the former US President Bill Clinton, "Healthy China – Public Role Model Award" (2012) by People Daily, and "Top Ten Charity Women" (2013) by China Women's Development Foundation.

As Mrs Fong puts it, there is no secret to success but hard work. Mr Pro-Chancellor, here is a lady who has set an example of how diligence makes dream come true and how dedication can result in impactful charity works that benefit numerous people. In recognition of Mrs Fong's dedication and selfless contributions to Hong Kong and China, may I invite our President to present Mrs Nellie Fong Wong Kut-man for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Citation written and to be delivered by Professor LUI Yu-hon

榮譽社會科學博士學位

方黃吉雯女士

副校監先生：

生命的價值並非取決於其長度而是在於其廣度。要令生命變得豐盛有意義，除了要事業有成外，更需要回饋社會，為廣大社群帶來正面影響。若人人都秉持並積極實踐這種信念，社會定必不斷進步，人類生活定必更加美好。方黃吉雯女士正好身體力行，展示如何令生命活得精彩有意義；她努力不懈地工作，成就斐然，並無私奉獻予弱勢社群，熱心公益，堪為典範。

方太為專業會計師，勤奮認真，遠見卓識，身兼英格蘭及威爾斯特許會計師公會資深會員、香港會計師公會資深會員，以及英國特許稅務學會會員，不僅在行內享負盛名，在慈善公益方面更不遺餘力。

方太的父親也是專業會計師，母親是虔誠的基督徒；父母基因和家庭成長背景不僅造就她的事業路向，也培養她日後對慈善事業的熱忱。方太於庇理羅士女子中學畢業後，1968年離港赴英攻讀會計；五年後回港，獲國際頂尖會計師樓之一的安達信（Arthur Andersen）聘用，展開會計生涯。由於工作勤奮，表現出色，方太在短短八年間已獲晉升為合夥人，當時才三十歲出頭。

方太不但工作認真，能力超卓，更具備策略思維及前瞻遠見。早於1970年代後期，中國才剛開始對外改革開放，方太已看準內地市場的巨大潛力，率先每週於內地工作五天，週末才回港休息。此舉對她日後在中國的政治生涯和慈善工作影響深遠。儘管她當時幾乎完全不懂說普通話，但每次出席商務會議均準備十足，並提供內容文本，有助與會人士了解她的觀點；方太勤奮、積極和認真的工作態度給她的內地的商業夥伴留下了深刻的印象。而她更重大的建樹，是讓國內的企業和政府明白，中國必須採用西方會計標準，才可融入國際經濟體系。在她的專業生涯中，方太贏得各方好友的尊重愛戴，並在國內奠定難能可貴的人際網絡。

2002年，安達信會計師事務所將香港和中國業務與普華永道（PWC）合併，方太隨即出任普華永道中國業務主席，直至2007年退休。其後，她全情投入服務社區和致力慈善公益。

方太一向積極參與政事和公職，憑藉在英國接受高等教育的薰陶，加上在美資審計公司的工作經驗，以及對中國改革開放初期環境的了解，方太獲香港和中國政府高度重用：在1983-1989年間，她獲香港政府委任為市政局議員和區議員；並於1988至1991年出任立法局議員；1992年擔任中國政府的港事顧問；在1993年至1997年間，她擔任香港主權移交籌備委員會成員和經濟小組召集人；1995年籌組香港明天更好基金，並於1995至2001年間擔任基金執行委員會主席。

1997年香港回歸後，方太獲香港特別行政區政府委任為行政會議成員，直至2002年。2003年至2017年期間，她更出任中國第十、十一、十二屆全國政協委員。

方太政治生涯中，特別值得一提的是她對國有企業現代化的承擔和貢獻。1999年至2011年，方太曾協助國務院國有資產監督管理委員會（國資委）培訓重點國企領導人，並協助多家國企在海外上市。2009年至2014年期間，香港公開大學在方太的協助下，與國資委合作為國企高級管理層提供遙距專業培訓課程。

方太在慈善公益方面的成就和貢獻，媲美她在政界的影響力：她讓數以十萬計的白內障患者重見光明，並在中國偏遠落後省份提供眼科醫生的教育和培訓。方太於1996年創辦名為「健康快車」的慈善機構，讓眼科火車醫院開往內地偏遠地區，為貧困白內障患者提供免費手術治療。她於1997年成立「健康快車香港基金」，接著於2002年在中國成立「中華健康快車基金會」，並擔任執行副理事長一職。在1997年至2020年之間，接受免費手術的白內障患者超過二十一萬人。免費手術不但改變患者的人生，更改變整個家庭的未來，可謂影響深遠。每一顆治癒的眼睛，就像重燃一條生命，亦為整個家庭帶來曙光。

2005年，方太認為需要在內地農村培訓眼科醫生，才可延續寄予希望的概念，她逐步將「健康快車」的焦點，從單純提供治療，擴展至在中國偏遠地區培訓眼科醫生。她在落後省份建立多家眼科中心，透過遠程醫療、網絡實驗室和培訓網站，為眼科醫生提供持續培訓。在她大力的支持下，國際眼科委員會（ICO）終推出中文試題，是首個供中國專科醫生應考的國際通用考試。方太為ICO考試名列三甲的醫生設立獎金制

度，提供獎學基金協助 ICO 考試合格的眼科醫生出國進修。截至今日，「健康快車」共有四輛眼科火車醫院穿梭於內地農村地區之間，每年為超過一萬二千名白內障患者提供治療；該會亦設立八十六個「健康快車眼科中心」，不斷為農村眼科醫生提供培訓，並為貧困患者提供免費眼科手術。

方太與丈夫方正博士於 2006 年自資創辦方氏慈善基金，以資助「健康快車」及其他慈善項目，例如中國農村地區賑災工作，及農村學校設施優化工程等。

近年，方太的慈善事業更擴展至繪畫藝術：她於 2015 年創立「藝育菁英基金會」，每月為二百名貧困家庭青年提供繪畫課程，並舉辦一年一度的全港繪畫日。2017 年，方太主辦「全球水墨畫大展」，展示來自全球五百位水墨畫家的優秀作品。

方太全情投入的態度，以及多方面的成就，讓她獲各界人士的廣泛認同。方太於 1988 年獲委任為太平紳士；並於 1999 年獲香港特別行政區政府授予金紫荊星章，以表揚她對香港的傑出貢獻。方太在慈善工作上的超群建樹亦為她帶來多個獎項，包括中央政府民政部頒發的「中華慈善獎·個人」獎（2005 年）、「中華慈善獎·全國優秀慈善工作者」獎（2008 年）及美國前總統克林頓頒發的「克林頓全球慈善倡議獎」（2008 年）、《人民日報》頒發的「健康中國·年度公益榜樣獎」（2012 年）、以及由中國婦女發展基金會所頒發的「十大女性公益人物」獎（2013 年）。

正如方太曾說過：成功沒有秘訣，只有努力勤奮才會成功。副校監先生，方黃吉雯女士樹立了榜樣，證明只須認真勤奮，便可夢想成真；以及無私奉獻，使無數人受益。為表彰方黃吉雯女士為香港和中國內地所作出的傑出貢獻，本人在此恭請校長引介方黃吉雯女士接受本校的榮譽社會科學博士學位。

英文贊辭由呂汝漢教授撰寫及宣讀