

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

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, GBS, JP



Mr Chairman,

Mr Chan Ka-kui was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government in the 2022 Honours List for his exemplary public and community service over the years; and in particular, for his outstanding and strategic contribution to the construction industry. This is fitting recognition for a leader who has striven so hard throughout his career to excel, and who has so generously given back to the community and the industry that he loves.

Mr Chan, who graduated in 1971 from the then Hong Kong Polytechnic, is a Registered Professional Surveyor and successful contractor. As a tribute to his outstanding achievements, he was appointed by the long standing Hong Kong Construction Association, as its first ever Honorary Supervisor.

Mr Chan's distinguished record of public service stretches back to the 1980s. He has served on boards and committees across a wide range of disciplines, including youth and sports development, town planning, public housing, education and training, and occupational safety and health.

Owing to his keen, in-depth understanding of the construction industry, Mr Chan was appointed as Chairman of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) – the statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable development of the construction industry. During his six-year tenure from 2016 to 2022, the CIC spearheaded numerous bold initiatives to improve the industry, many of which were revolutionary and impactful.

Its most significant initiative was introducing Modular Integrated Construction Technology (MiC) in Hong Kong, jointly with the Development Bureau. This is an advanced form of industrialised construction, in which most of the work, such as concreting, steel bending, plastering and

electrical installation, is done in the factory. MiC is a disruptive change to conventional construction, in which most of the works are done on the construction site, which is the root cause of most of the problems associated with construction, such as safety, environmental pollution and poor quality.

Over the past few years, the CIC has invested a lot of resources in introducing MiC and educating the construction and engineering community, as well as the general public, about its benefits. Hong Kong was lucky that the CIC and the Development Bureau had the foresight to set up the MiC supply chain and construction regime early. Otherwise, for example, we would not have been able to construct the large number of COVID-19 quarantine facilities in time to curtail the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020.

The Chief Executive affirmed the benefits of MiC in his recent Policy Address and advocated its wide adoption in the construction of much-needed public housing. This is a big step forward in realising the dream of Mr Chan to develop Hong Kong into a centre of excellence for MiC.

From 1993 to 2001, Mr Chan was the Chairman of the Construction Industry Training Authority, where he laid a solid foundation for skills training and trade testing of construction workers. He was also instrumental in setting up the Hong Kong Institute of Construction (HKIC) in 2018, which offers Hong Kong Qualifications Framework accredited programmes, thereby allowing construction workers and supervisors to move up the academic ladder as their careers advance, empowering them to engage in lifelong learning. Mr Chan is a good example of this, having completed a Master's degree in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at City University of Hong Kong at the age of 53. Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) strongly supports this noble endeavour, and we look forward to welcoming all HKIC graduates who will be joining HKMU's degree programmes under the Memorandum of Intent signed between the two institutions late last year.

The well-being of construction workers, a less-privileged group in the construction community, has always been at the heart of Mr Chan's goals. He has put a lot of effort into helping them to find value in life, which he believes is an important element of a happy life.

Soon after Mr Chan became Chairman of the CIC in 2016, it set up the Construction Industry Sports and Volunteering Programme, which encourages construction practitioners, especially front-line workers, to participate in sports activities and volunteer services, to raise their quality

of life and self-esteem. It may look trivial to some of us here, but not to many construction workers, who are not always afforded these opportunities.

For instance, Lu Pan Rice (魯班飯行動) is a signature community project in the Volunteering Programme, where construction companies give out free meal boxes to people in need. The project harks back to a tradition practiced by construction companies on the birthday of Patron Lu Pan, the Master of Trade of the construction industry.

As a result of these and countless other initiatives, Hong Kong's construction industry is now a very united and caring industry.

As someone who sees life as a series of challenges, Mr Chan has more than proved his ability to overcome any obstacles in his way. For example, he challenged himself to serious training and ran his first full marathon at the age of 62 – a feat of which he is immensely proud and a good reflection of his inborn spirit, always striving for self-improvement.

A natural leader who is full of vision, commitment and compassion, Mr Chan shares many of the values of our University, and there is much that we can learn from him. We look forward to having his wise counsel in the years ahead.

Mr Chairman, it is my great honour and privilege to invite our President to present Mr Chan Ka-kui for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

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*Citation to be delivered by Professor Philips Wang Fu-lee*