

榮譽工商管理博士學位

胡永輝先生

校董會主席先生：

佛山市順德區位于珠江三角洲中部，北鄰廣州、南近港澳，面積約 806 平方公里、常住人口 120 萬人，但旅居港澳台的鄉親及國外華僑都近 50 多萬人。順德是珠江三角洲中部崛起的新城市，為全國重要的家電、家具、燃氣具和日用品生產基地。順德雖然是一個小城市，但卻揚名中外，她的成功，除了因為優越的地理環境外，亦因為她的人文條件。順德鄉情濃厚，人材輩出。順德人低調務實、謙和、守信、勇於領先、創新、團結及樂善好施。順德的旅外華僑，對家鄉更永繫於心，對家鄉的建設及教育，無償投入，毫不吝嗇。

胡永輝先生是順德桂州人。是香港順德聯誼總會榮譽會長，他擁有所有順德人的優點。在他身上，我們可以體會優良的順德精神。

胡先生一九三一年出生於一個小康之家，父親是商人，經營蠶絲製造及貿易生意，六歲時為逃避戰亂，與家人遷居香港，並開始接受小學教育。其後由於戰火繼續蔓延，胡先生一家多次遷徙，先後定居澳門及廣州。最後回到家鄉桂州。在這段奔波的日子，胡先生沒有放棄他的學業。他讀過不同的學校，有時亦不一定能按步就班地學習，但最後亦能夠完成中學階段。一九五一年胡先生在廣州市第一職業學校畢業，並入讀廣州市法商學院。其後國家進行院系調整，廣州市法商學院先後與嶺南大學及中山大學之財經政法院系合併成立綜合性之中山大學，隨後再與其他院校在武漢整合，成為武漢中南財經大學，胡先生亦跟隨遷移武漢。一九五五年胡先生從中南財經大學畢業，獲授予經濟學學士學位。

回想這段崎嶇的求學經歷，胡先生總覺得自己比別人幸運。他慶幸自己有一個較好的家庭環境，讓他有機會完成學業。因此，他特別關懷社會上一些有志求學但卻缺乏機會的青年人。亦以教育為捐助的首要項目之一。胡先生認為一個和諧的社會，必須保持階級的流動性，草根階層人士，應該給予希望及機會，讓他們有一天能改善生活，提升社會地位。而教育正是確保階級流動的要素。他深信知識可以改變命運，追求知識是每個人應有的權利，不應該受經濟環境所牽制。

大學畢業後，胡永輝先生入職中國水利部黃河水利委員會計劃財務處，擔任規劃及財務方面的工作。胡先生任職期間努力學習，熱心工作，多次獲表揚。當時累積的經驗，對他日後事業的發展，亦幫助很大。

一九六二年秋胡先生移居香港，協助乃兄發展地產投資。於一九六九年與友人創辦永常置業有限公司，專門從事地產發展。永常集團逐步發展至擁有十餘間有限公司，業務範圍除以地產發展為主外，還從事服務及幼兒教育事業，並逐步發展國內及國外地產投資。今天他是永常（集團）有限公司董事總經理，同時兼任多間地產發展及投資公司之董事，亦是偉思幼稚園的校董。

胡先生熱心公益。特別在扶持弱勢社群方面的工作，胡先生更不遺餘力，一九七六年胡先生出任香港保良局總理，直至一九八二年出任主席，現為該局顧問。一九七七年出任香港青少年培育會主席及該會陳南昌學校校監，凡三十餘年，對輔導邊緣青少年納入正軌作出不少貢獻。此外，他亦擔任不少其他公職，出錢出力，貢獻社會。

對家鄉的教育及慈善事業，胡先生不甘後人，樂於捐輸。除參與籌建順德職業技術學院外，胡先生先後捐資樂助擴建桂洲鎮小學，助建桂州新中學、桂州職業中學、桂州馮派普頤老院以及桂州社會福利教育基金會，還捐資助建順德體育中心，順德市慈善基金及教育基金等。

對香港的高等教育，胡先生更積極支持。自一九九六年開始，胡先生每年均會資助本校的學生及在囚人士進修。胡先生更加入本校資助及發展基金委員會，協助本校各方面的發展。胡先生亦在香港其他院校設立不同類型之獎助學金，為本地培育英才。

胡先生的無私善舉，獲得社會各界的肯定。除順德聯誼總會外，其他的榮譽委任包括中國岳陽大學名譽教授，香港童軍地域總會名譽會長，香港中區街坊福利委員會名譽

會長，以及香港西區婦女會名譽會長等。一九八四年，胡先生獲頒授 MBE 勳銜。為表揚他對本校的大力支持，本校亦於二〇〇一年頒授胡先生榮譽院士榮銜。

校董會主席先生，胡永輝先生是一個成功的商人，除了專注自己的事業，亦關心他人，更樂意與別人分享他的成果。他熱心公益，服務社群，盡心盡力。胡先生認同教育的功能，對學子的支持不遺餘力，對本校的支持，從無間斷。為表揚他對社會的貢獻和承擔，本人恭請校長引介胡永輝先生接授本大學榮譽工商管理博士學位。

.....
贊辭由黃錫楠教授撰寫及宣讀

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, *honoris causa*

Mr Vincent Woo Wing-fai, MBE

Mr Chairman,

Shunde, a district of Foshan, is a fast-growing area at the centre of the Pearl River Delta, very close to Guangzhou and Hong Kong. It covers an area of 806 km² and has a population of 1.2 million. More than 500,000 Chinese people living in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, as well as overseas, have their ancestral roots in this district. Since the economic reforms in the 1980s, industrial development has been on the rise in Shunde, especially the manufacturing of furniture, household products, and gas and electrical appliances. Although Shunde is relatively small geographically, it enjoys unique national and international fame. Its success is due not only to its superior geographical environment but also to the Shunde people who, over generations, have become well known for their humility, pragmatism, generosity and solidarity, and for being innovative and never failing to keep their word. Shunde people living abroad have been donating money generously to support educational development and construction projects in their home area.

Mr Vincent Woo Wing-fai has made his hometown, Guizhou in Shunde, proud of him. He is the Honorary President of the Hong Kong Shunde Fraternal Association and has all the virtues and strengths commonly found among Shunde people. Without a doubt, Mr Woo is a great example of the Shunde spirit.

Mr Woo was born in 1931 into a reasonably well-off family, his father being a businessman who engaged in silk manufacture and trading. At the age of six, to seek refuge from the war, the young Mr Woo moved to Hong Kong with his family and received his primary school education here. However, as the war spread to Hong Kong, the family had to move again and later settled in Macau and then Guangzhou – before Mr Woo eventually returned

to his hometown, Guizhou. During this unstable time, he never gave up his studies. He attended different schools, sometime skipping grades, and tried very hard to finish his secondary schooling. In 1951, Mr Woo graduated from Guangzhou First Vocational School and continued to study at Guangzhou College of Law and Commerce which, with the government's move to consolidate higher education, was merged with Lingnan University and, subsequently, Dr Sun Yat-sen University – and it was later combined with other colleges to form the Zhongnan University of Economics and moved to Wuhan. Mr Woo also went to Wuhan and eventually graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1955.

Looking back at his schooling experience, which was far from smooth, Mr Woo feels that he is a really lucky man. His family was always supportive, hoping that he could receive the best possible education. Because of this experience, Mr Woo has a long-standing desire to help students in financial need to further their studies. In fact, providing financial support to various educational projects has been one of the major objectives of Mr Woo's foundation. He believes that social mobility is the key to building a harmonious society and that education is one of the most important factors ensuring that our society has a high level of mobility. Mr Woo believes that everyone should have access to education, regardless of their social and financial circumstances. Knowledge has changed Mr Woo's destiny and made a major difference to his life, and so he has a firm belief that it should also change the lives of many others.

After graduating from university, Mr Woo joined the Finance and Planning Office of Huanghe Water Resources Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources in mainland China, and was responsible for the planning and financial work. He devoted himself to the job and was praised by the leadership on many occasions. The experience he gained during this period greatly helped his future career development.

In the autumn of 1962, Mr Woo moved to Hong Kong to help his brother's real estate development and investment business; and, seven years later, he founded Wing Sheung Property Limited. Since then the company has grown to include a dozen subsidiaries, engaging in a wide range of business activities such as service industries, kindergarten education and, of course, real estate development in Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas. He is currently the Managing Director of Wing Sheung (Holdings) Limited, the Supervisor of Wisely Kindergarten and the director of numerous real estate development and investment companies.

Mr Woo is a man who exemplifies the meaning of the word 'philanthropist' in its truest sense. He has shown great concern for the well-being of the less privileged in our society. In 1976, he became a director of Po Leung Kuk and, six years later, chaired this important charity organization – and currently, he is a consultant to Po Leung Kuk. In 1977, he was appointed Chairman of Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre and Supervisor of its Chan Nam Cheong Memorial School. Taking up this responsibility for more than three decades, Mr Woo has been working wholeheartedly for the well-being of youth at risk; and thanks to his hard work, many confused young people have become responsible men and women who contribute significantly to our society. In addition to this good work, Mr Woo has held many public offices and contributes fully to society.

Mr Woo never forgets his roots. He has made generous contributions for the development of his hometown – such as the construction of Guizhen Elementary School, New Guizhou Middle School, Guizhou Vocational School, Guizhou Feng Paipu Home for the Aged and Shunde Sports Centre – which would not have been possible without his support. In addition, he helped to establish the Guizhou Foundation for Social Welfare and Education and the Shunde Charity and Education Foundation, and contributed to the establishment of the Shunde Polytechnic.

Mr Woo is equally supportive of higher education in Hong Kong. From 1996, he made annual donations to provide bursaries for students at the OUHK and for prison inmates. He joined the Sponsorship and Development Fund Committee of the University, providing valuable support to its development. He is also an active supporter of other higher education institutions in Hong Kong, providing numerous bursaries and scholarships to worthy students.

Mr Woo has been widely praised for his years of charity work. In addition to serving as Honorary President of the Hong Kong Shunde Fraternal Association, he is an Honorary Professor of Yueyang University, Honorary President of the Regional Scout Association of Hong Kong, Honorary President of the Central District Kai-fong Welfare Association and Honorary President of the Western District Women's Welfare Club. In 1984, he was awarded an MBE. In 2001, the title of Honorary University Fellow was conferred on him by the OUHK in recognition of his contributions to the University.

Mr Chairman, Mr Woo is a successful businessman. In addition to his outstanding career, he has devoted substantial energy and resources to social causes. He cares about other people, and is willing to share his fortune with them. Mr Woo has been widely recognized for his contributions to education in Hong Kong and the mainland, and is a continuous supporter of this University. In recognition of his many distinctive achievements, may I invite our President to present Mr Vincent Woo Wing-fai for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration, *honoris causa*.

Chinese citation written and to be delivered by Professor Wong Shek-nam