

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

**Dr Eddy Fong Ching, GBS, JP**

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Madam Chancellor,

Hong Kong may lack natural resources, but it is rich in human talent, of which Dr Eddy Fong Ching is one of the finest examples. He is a visionary whose feet are firmly planted on the ground. After reaching the top in his chosen profession, he continued to serve the community by very generously giving time to a wide range of causes.

Born in 1947, Dr Fong is a native of Guangdong. He graduated from Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, in 1964 before moving to the United Kingdom for further studies. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Science from the University of Kent in 1969, stayed on in the UK to find his bearings and subsequently qualified as a chartered accountant. Upon his return to Hong Kong in the early 1970s, he joined the international accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand in 1974 and became a partner in 1979. He carved out an outstanding career as a practising accountant and was a senior audit partner in PwC's capital market group by the time of his retirement in 2003.

Dr Fong's public service began in earnest in the early 1990s, long before he retired. Sir David Akers-Jones invited him to join the Hong Kong Housing Authority in 1992 and he later became the Chairman of its Finance Committee. The Federation of Hong Kong Industries, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority and The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation were among the many public service organizations he served with distinction in those earlier days.

Soon after retiring as a full-time professional accountant, Dr Fong was appointed by the HKSAR Government as the non-executive Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission following the passing of the Securities and Futures (Amendment) Ordinance

in 2006 which spelled out the separation of the role of the Chairman from the executive arm. It was here that he made some of his most important and lasting contributions to the city. As Chairman from 2006 to 2012, he was responsible for formulating policies for the Commission as well as coordinating with mainland agencies on a variety of investment flow and cross-border regulatory issues. It was also during his first two years at the Commission that the collapse of Lehman investment bank triggered a global financial crisis which threatened to undermine the stability of the banking and securities industry in Hong Kong. That was just one among many challenges he faced.

He played a major role in upholding the financial industry's standards to ensure fairness and transparency. Dr Fong drew an analogy between education and the financial market, saying 'participants in the market need to be educated about the rules of the market, and the consequences when these rules are not observed.' He is also a strong believer in maintaining a fine balance between the quality of the financial markets and their development, a principle which underpins Hong Kong's continuing success and soundness as an international financial centre.

In addition to the regulatory world of high finance, Dr Fong has been equally involved in higher education. The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) — to which he devoted most of his time — are just two institutions of learning to benefit from his wisdom and service. He first joined the OUHK Council as a member in 2003 and quickly became the Treasurer from 2004 to 2009, culminating in his becoming Chairman from 2009 to 2016. During his 13-year tenure, the OUHK has been transformed from being a predominantly distance learning institution into a university which also offers full-time studies; and, while the full-time undergraduate enrolment has climbed to the sixth largest in Hong Kong, the OUHK still remains a robust self-financing institution.

Under his leadership as Chairman, the University was successful in securing two much sought-after land grants from the Government. The first site, on Chung Hau Street, became the Jockey Club Campus for the development of the University's full-time programmes, such as Testing and Certification, Creative Arts, and Nursing. The second site, on Sheung Shing Street, is the location of the much-anticipated Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare to be established in 2020. Dr Fong's vision and determination were also displayed in his disposal of the former premises of the Learning Centre at the Shun Tak Centre in exchange for the property at the Kowloon Commercial Centre in Kwai Hing which currently houses the Lee

Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education. By means of this exchange, the size of the Institute increased threefold overnight from over 3,100 square metres to 9,290 square metres, thus providing ample space and a better learning environment for our sub-degree programmes.

He recalls gleefully the impeccable timing of these transactions and the fortunate sequence of events, which made a valuable contribution to the long-term sustainable development of the University. There is little doubt that a large part of our achievements can be traced back to his leadership philosophy: 'I prefer to allow good ideas to emerge, spend time to study the issues at hand and choose the best approach before moving forward.'

Ever the public-spirited leader, Dr Fong shows little sign of slowing down. He continues to serve the business community in a variety of roles — as an Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of the MTR Corporation Limited, and the Standard Chartered Bank, Hong Kong and China.

Recognized for his commitment to the Hong Kong SAR and exemplary public service, Dr Fong became a Justice of the Peace in 1996 and was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2000, followed by the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2008. He also received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from his alma mater, the University of Kent, in 1997 and became an Honorary Fellow of The Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts four years later.

Madam Chancellor, in recognition of Dr Fong's public service, his devotion to the welfare of the Hong Kong SAR, and his exemplary citizenship and civic leadership, may I invite the President to present Dr Eddy Fong Ching to you for the award of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

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Citation written and to be delivered by Professor Reggie Kwan Ching-ping

## 榮譽社會科學博士學位

### 方正博士

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校監女士：

香港容或缺乏天然資源，但勝在人才濟濟，方正博士正是其中的佼佼者。方博士目光遠大，務實有為，不但個人事業攀上頂峰，而且積極服務社會，不吝奉獻時間，參與各類公益事務。

方博士生於 1947 年，祖籍廣東，1964 年於香港華仁書院畢業後，移居英國進修；1969 年取得肯特大學社會科學學士學位，隨後更於當地考獲特許會計師資格。1970 年代初返港，1974 年加入國際機構永道會計師事務所，並於 1979 年成為公司合夥人，從此在會計專業上，鴻圖大展，成就驕人。其後更晉身為安永會計師事務所資深審計合夥人，專責處理中港兩地資本市場事務，直至 2003 年榮休。

方博士榮休之前，早已在上世紀 90 年代開始投身公共事務，1992 年應鍾逸傑爵士之邀，成為香港房屋委員會委員，其後更出任該會財務小組委員會主席。其時方博士服務的機構眾多，包括香港工業總會、香港演藝學院、強制性公積金計劃管理局，以及香港按揭證券有限公司，身兼多項公職，貢獻非凡。

2006 年，《證券及期貨（修訂）條例》獲得通過，將主席一職與香港證券及期貨事務監察委員會（證監會）的日常運作分開，方博士從全職專業會計師崗位榮休未幾，即獲特區政府委任為該會非執行主席。在此領域中，方博士對香港的建樹尤其突出：2006 至 2012 年擔任證監會主席期間，專責為委員會制定政策，並就各種投資流量以及跨境規管議題，與內地相關機構協調。方博士在任首兩年內，適逢美國雷曼兄弟投資銀行倒閉，觸發全球金融危機，對香港銀行及證券業的穩定性衝擊甚大。方博士在任期間，屢經挑戰，均能沉著應對，是次危機僅屬一例而已。

在提升金融業標準方面，為了確保證監會的公平性與透明度，方博士的角色可謂舉足輕重，更由此體悟以下「寓教育於金融市場」的警言：「確有必要以市場規則及違規造成的潛在後果，對市場參與者予以適當的教育。」他亦深信在金融市場質素與發展之間，兩者必須維持微妙平衡，而這項原則對香港繼續成為成功穩健的國際金融中心，無疑至關重要。

除積極參與規管巨額融資活動以外，方博士同樣熱心高等教育，為各所專上院校出謀獻策，其中對香港公開大學與香港演藝學院投放的時間最多。他於 2003 年首度出任香港公開大學校董會成員，翌年即擔任司庫，更由 2009 至 2016 年獲委任校董會主席之職。在方博士服務的 13 載期間，公大由以開辦遙距課程為主的院校，發展成為提供全日課程的大學，全日本科生課程的收生人數，在全港高等院校中位居第六，至今依然自資辦學，教研發展蓬勃向上。

在方博士擔任主席期間，本校在他的領導下，先後獲得政府撥出兩塊用地：第一塊在忠孝街，建成賽馬會校園，以供發展全日課程如檢測和認證、創意藝術、護理等等。第二塊用地在常盛街，以供興建期待已久的賽馬會健康護理學院，預計將於 2020 年落成啟用。方博士任內再一次展現果斷卓識，將本校原位於信德中心的港島教學中心，遷往位於葵興九龍貿易中心的教學中心，亦即李嘉誠專業進修學院的現址。遷址之後，學院面積由原來 3,100 平方米增至 9,290 平方米，增幅高達三倍，空間充裕，大大改善副學位課程的學習環境。

當方博士欣然回顧遷址安排時，他深覺在一連串有利形勢配合下，這對公大的長遠持續發展的確大有裨益。本校今天的驕人成就，追本溯源，無疑得力於他的領導理念：「我會讓好主意隨意浮現，然後加以認真研究，選取最佳方案後就勇往直前。」

方博士從來急公好義，至今仍孜孜不倦，身兼多項商界公職，包括香港鐵路有限公司獨立非執行董事兼審核委員會主席，以及渣打銀行（香港）有限公司暨渣打銀行（中國）有限公司獨立非執行董事等等。

熱心公益，以身作則的方博士，1996 年獲委任太平紳士，2000 年與 2008 年更先後獲香港特區政府嘉許，授予銀紫荊星章與金紫荊星章；此外，又於 1997 年獲其母校英國肯特大學頒授民法學榮譽博士學位，四年後亦獲香港演藝學院頒發榮譽院士榮銜。

校監女士，為表彰方博士功在社會，造福香港特區不遺餘力，堪稱傑出公民兼公民領袖楷模，我謹恭請校長引介方正博士接受大學的榮譽社會科學博士學位。

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英文贊辭由關清平教授撰寫及宣讀