

榮譽大學院士

Honorary University Fellows

孔美琪博士

Dr Maggie Koong May-kay, BBS, JP

出於對兒童的真誠喜愛，孔美琪博士全身投入幼兒教育工作超過三十年，憑藉無比的熱情和毅力，引領一代又一代的兒童和教師，成為具國際視野和同理心的終身學習者。

雖然孔博士的母親、前市政局議員丁毓珠女士創辦了兩所維多利亞幼稚園，但孔博士最初並沒有打算女承母業，反而是立志懸壺濟世，遠赴美國曼荷蓮女子學院修讀醫學。在學期間的一次交流活動，讓她有機會照顧醫院內有特殊需要的病童，意識到教育的重要，令她毅然棄醫從教，轉而攻讀心理及教育文學士課程。

大學畢業後，孔博士在麻省擔任幼稚園老師，工作了一年後回港探親時，決定聽從母親的建議，留下來幫忙打理家業，並實踐自己的教學理念，推動創新的教學模式。承傳了母親的進取心和拼搏精神，在短短的五年間，孔博士不但創辦了她的首兩所幼稚園，而且為人妻、為人母，並取得了香港大學的教育碩士學位。其後她繼續努力進修，取得英國杜倫大學(Durham University)教育博士學位，專注鑽研方法改善香港的幼兒教育，並將科研成果納入日常教學。

在孔博士的英明領導下，最初由其母親於1965年創辦時只有八名學生的維多利亞幼稚園，如今已發展成為在香港和中國內地設有多間幼稚園和幼兒園、聲譽卓著的教育機構，服務亦由幼稚園延伸至全港首間「一條龍」IB國際文憑課程世界學校——滬江維多利亞學校。

孔博士一直致力提倡本港、中國內地以至全球優質幼兒教育發展，從多角度改善幼兒的學習、照顧、生活環境和權益。她是全球擁有近70個成員國的世界幼兒教育聯會

前任世界會長、聯合國兒童基金香港委員會前副主席和免費幼稚園教育委員會委員；現任聯合國教科文組織項目顧問及其全民教育集體磋商國際焦點聯絡人、亞太區幼兒教育網絡督導委員會成員、聯合國非政府組織代表、國際遊樂協會香港分會主席、平等機會委員會委員及上海市政協委員。

近年，孔博士積極推動高等教育和幼師培訓。她是香港教育大學校董會創校校董，並協助該校成立幼兒教育學院。孔博士現擔任香港中文大學校董、香港大學教育學院院務委員會成員和美國惠特學院校董。香港公開大學亦蒙孔博士多番支持，出任教育及語文學院學術顧問小組成員，以及李嘉誠專業進修學院榮譽顧問。孔博士曾任各大專院校客座講師、教育研討會和會議主講嘉賓，並撰寫《優教幼教樂伴幼兒》一書，將她豐富的幼兒教育經驗和教學熱誠傳授給下一代教育工作者。

孔博士對教育和社會服務的投入為她帶來多項殊榮，包括2000年獲選為香港十大傑出青年，2013年獲香港特區政府頒發銅紫荊星章，2014年獲美國惠特學院頒授人文學榮譽博士學位，2015年獲香港教育大學頒授榮譽院士榮銜，以及今年較早時獲香港特區政府委任為非官守太平紳士。

為表揚孔美琪博士對香港及本校之貢獻，現恭請副校長頒授榮譽大學院士榮銜予孔美琪博士。



For over 30 years, Dr Maggie Koong May-kay has dedicated herself to early childhood education out of a genuine affection for children. She has guided generations of children and teachers to become compassionate life-long learners with a global vision.

Although an heiress to the two Victoria Kindergartens established by her mother, former Urban Councillor Ms Christina Ting Yuk-choe, Dr Koong's initial aspiration was to pursue medicine when admitted to Mount Holyoke College in the United States. Yet during her studies, an exchange programme that took her to care for some hospitalised children with special needs changed the course of her life, prompting her decision to study for a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education.

Upon graduation, Dr Koong served as a kindergarten teacher in Massachusetts for one year. The young teacher took the advice of her mother during a trip back to Hong Kong to help run her kindergartens, where she could put in place her innovative teaching approaches and curricula. She radiated the same enterprising and can-do spirit when she launched the first two of her kindergartens in a short span of five years, during which Dr Koong also got married, became a mother and obtained a Master of Education degree from the University of Hong Kong. She then continued to travel the journey on early childhood education by pursuing a doctoral degree at Durham University in the UK, researching ways to improve early childhood education in Hong Kong and putting her scientific discoveries into daily practices.

The small kindergarten which started out with only eight students by her mother in 1965, under Dr Koong's strong leadership, has become an educational enterprise of great renown today, with kindergartens and nurseries both in Hong Kong and the mainland China, as well as the first 'through-train' International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in Hong Kong — Victoria Shanghai Academy.

During her career, Dr Koong has made valuable contributions to enhancing the quality of early childhood education, care, living environments and children's rights in Hong Kong, mainland China and across the world. She is the Immediate Past World President of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP), an international professional body of

early childhood educators with around 70 member countries. She was the Vice-Chairperson of UNICEF-Hong Kong and a member of the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education set up by the Education Bureau. She is presently a project advisor for UNESCO and an International Focal Point of its Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education For All (CCNGO/EFA) Coordination Group, a steering committee member of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), an NGO representative for the United Nations, Chairperson of the International Play Association-Hong Kong Branch and a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission. She is also a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference — Shanghai Committee.

In recent years, Dr Koong has devoted her time and energy to advancing the quality of tertiary education and teacher training. She is a founding Council member of the Education University of Hong Kong and helped establish its School of Early Childhood Education. She also serves on the Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Board of Faculty of Education of the University of Hong Kong and Board of Trustees of Whittier College, USA. She is a member of the Advisory Peer Group for the School of Education and Languages of the Open University of Hong Kong and an honorary advisor to the University's Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education. She has been a guest lecturer at various tertiary institutes and keynote speaker at education seminars and conferences, and authored a book titled *Fostering Quality Education the Happy Way*, passing on her rich experience and enthusiasm for early childhood education to the next generation of professional educators.

Among the accolades she received were a Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 2000, a HKSAR Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2013, an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters awarded by Whittier College, USA in 2014, and an Honorary Fellowship from the Education University of Hong Kong in 2015. Earlier this year, Dr Koong was appointed Non-official Justice of the Peace (JP) by the HKSAR Government.

In recognition of Dr Maggie Koong May-kay's contributions to Hong Kong and the University, may I invite the Pro-Chancellor to present her with the Honorary University Fellowship.