



陳美齡博士 Dr Agnes Miling CHAN

陳美齡博士是著名歌星、演員、作家，多年來熱心為兒童和婦女爭取權益。

美齡於1955年在香港出生，年僅十四在瑪利曼中學讀書時，便開始拿着吉他自彈自唱，並不時為慈善活動籌款。姐姐依齡是演員，美齡與她一起錄製了美國歌手喬尼·米切爾的歌曲《The Circle Game》，大受歡迎。演出過多部電影後，美齡在東南亞也建立了名聲。1972年，美齡獲日本唱片公司邀請赴日發展，旋即成為炙手可熱的人氣偶像。

歌唱事業如火如荼，縱然面對巨大的工作壓力，美齡於1973年在日本的美國學校畢業，並繼續在上智大學學習了兩年，其後暫別工作，前往加拿大多倫多大學修讀社會兒童心理學，1978年取得學位後才重返日本娛樂圈。

1986年，陳美齡和其日籍經理人金子力結婚，大兒子隨後出生。作為經常上電視表演的名人，她開始把襁褓中的兒子帶到錄影室，方便在休息時哺乳照顧。她的做法引起了所謂「美齡爭論」——一場關於女性婚後是否應該辭職的全國性辯論，美國《時代》雜誌也有報導。當時史丹福大學的邁拉·斯特羅伯教授正研究婦女如何兼顧工作和家庭的問題，三十二歲的美齡與她在長途電話中交談了三十分鐘後，決定申請報讀該校的哲學博士課程。懷孕中的美齡帶着未滿三歲的兒子，於1989年到達美國上課兩年，在日本完成論文後於1994年獲頒博士學位。根據她的研究成果，美齡與斯特羅伯教授合著並出版了《路途艱辛：美國和日本的性別、工作和家庭》一書。

Dr Agnes Miling CHAN is a renowned singer, actress, writer and passionate advocate for the rights of children and women.

Born in Hong Kong in 1955, Agnes began to sing and perform with her guitar at the age of 14 when she was studying at Maryknoll Sisters' School, often for fundraising. She recorded a cover of US singer Joni Mitchell's *The Circle Game* with her elder sister, actress Irene Chan, and it was a big hit. After starring in several movies, Agnes became famous throughout Southeast Asia. She moved to Tokyo in 1972 at the invitation of a Japanese record company and soon became one of the most popular teenage idols.

In spite of the pressure from her singing career, Agnes graduated from the American School in Japan in 1973 and went on to study at Sophia University for two years. She took a break from the entertainment business and went to Canada to study social child psychology at the University of Toronto. With her undergraduate degree, she returned to Japan in 1978 and resumed her work as a performing artist.

Agnes married her Japanese manager Mr Tsutomu Kaneko in 1986 and gave birth to their first child. A celebrity with regular gigs and shows then, she began bringing her baby son to TV studios to feed and look after him during rest breaks. This led to the so-called 'Agnes controversy', a nation-wide debate about whether women should quit their jobs after marriage and was reported in *Time* magazine. After a 30-minute long-distance phone chat with Prof. Myra Strober at Stanford University, a scholar on the subject of job-family conflicts for women, the 32-year-old mother decided to apply to the PhD programme there. With a son not yet three years old and pregnant, Agnes arrived at the US in 1989 for two years of course work and got her doctorate in 1994 after finishing her dissertation in Japan. Her research findings resulted in a co-authored book, *The Road Winds Uphill All the Way: Gender, Work, and Family in the United States and Japan*, with Prof. Strober.

完成博士課程後，美齡更積極為弱勢社群發聲，並開始把更多時間投放在教學、寫作和慈善工作上。她到日本各地演講，在大學教授跨文化交流課程，並為報紙和雜誌撰寫文章。

1998年，美齡獲聯合國兒童基金會委任為首位日本親善大使。自訪問泰國後，她決心說服日本國會議員立法禁止兒童賣淫和色情物品。一年後法例正式通過，禁止日本男性在境內外向十八歲以下的未成年人購買性服務，並禁止雜誌刊登兒童裸照，美齡因此激怒了一些日本人。

追求和平與公義的種子，其實早已在她的心底萌芽。1984年，美齡為國際青年年撰寫和平論文獲獎。上世紀八十年代後期，她在日本電視綜藝節目中展示南京大屠殺的照片後，收到揚言要把她和兒子殺害的恐嚇信。作為聯合國兒童基金會的親善大使，美齡走遍世界不同角落，了解弱勢兒童的困境，努力改善他們的生活。自2007年以來，她一直跟乳癌搏鬥，經過多年的放射和賀爾蒙治療後才得以康復。

在美齡所著的百多本中、英或日文書籍中，三分之一與教育有關，其中最受歡迎的是2016年出版的《50個教育法—我把三個兒子送入了史丹福》。她用十個月時間研究香港的教育制度後，撰寫《40個教育提案—把快樂帶回給香港學生》一書，為教育改革提出建議，該書也引起了不少回響。美齡在四十七歲時出版了她的第一部日文小說，她撰寫的書林林總總，由烹飪到旅遊都有。

近年來，美齡更在電視上分享烹飪技巧，並在網上社交平台為家長解答育兒問題。新型冠狀病毒疫情期間，她為了多陪伴母親而留港，今年六月出版了首套包括個人畫作的中文親子繪本，並在三個月後舉辦了「美麗人生半世紀演唱會」。

美齡是香港都會大學李嘉誠專業進修學院榮譽顧問，2018年曾以聯合國兒童基金會東亞及太平洋地區大使身份親臨本校主持座談會，探討地球村的和平與合作。

為表揚陳美齡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陳美齡博士。

After her studies, Agnes became more vocal in public advocacy and began to spend more time on teaching, writing and charity work. She gave talks around Japan, taught courses in cross-cultural communication at universities and penned essays for newspaper and magazines.

In 1998, Agnes was appointed the first ambassador of the Japan Committee for UNICEF. Her visit to Thailand made her determined to convince Japanese legislators to ban child prostitution and pornography. One year later, she successfully pushed through a law prohibiting Japanese men from hiring prostitutes under 18 even outside Japan and magazines from publishing naked photos of children, which roused the ire of some people in the country.

The seeds for peace and justice had in fact been sown in her soul earlier. In 1984, Agnes won a prize for her peace thesis for International Youth Year. In the late 1980s, she showed photos of the Nanjing Massacre on a Japanese TV variety show and received death threats to herself and her son. As UNICEF's goodwill ambassador, Agnes has travelled around the world to learn about the plight of disadvantaged children and worked hard to improve their lives. She has battled against breast cancer since 2007 and recovered after years of radiotherapy and hormone treatment.

Among the 100-plus books – in Chinese, English or Japanese – Agnes has written, one-third of them are about education and the most popular is *50 Education Methods from a Mother Who Put 3 Sons into Stanford University*, which was published in 2016. She spent ten months researching Hong Kong's education system and came up with 40 proposals to revolutionize it and give happiness back to students. The proposals, which were included in a book, also led to much public discussion. Agnes published her first Japanese novel at the age of 47 and she also wrote about cooking, travelling and much more.

Agnes has started sharing her cooking techniques on TV and giving advice on parenting on online social media in recent years. Staying longer in Hong Kong during the COVID-19 pandemic to spend more time with her mother, Agnes even managed to publish a series of children picture books with her own drawings this June and hold a concert commemorating her 50-year singing career three months later.

Agnes is an Honorary Advisor of the Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education of Hong Kong Metropolitan University. She hosted a seminar on peace and cooperation in the global village on campus in 2018, in her capacity as UNICEF Regional Ambassador for East Asia and Pacific.

In recognition of Dr Agnes Miling Chan's contributions to Hong Kong and the University, may I invite the Pro-Chancellor to present her with the Honorary University Fellowship.