

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Mr LAW Kwok-hung

Han Yu's *Explanation Upon Entering the Academy* says 'Using large timber for pillars, small timber for roof trusses, and dwarfs for column brackets, door rod cups, door dividers, door bolts, and wedges, so that all are in their right places and form a house, is the art of the craftsman'. Construction requires the ability to select appropriate materials, draft master plans, and overcome operational difficulties. It is a place where families gather and the elderly are sheltered. A good dwelling is essential for engaging in work and is a place for people to return home in the twilight of their lives, like fallen leaves retuning to the roots. Providing such a home is a craftsman's lifelong vision. It is also the selfless dedication of wise people towards social construction.

For more than half a century, Mr Law Kwok-hung, a native of Panyu, has worked professionally and tirelessly in the construction industry. He now serves as executive director for both Yu Wing Construction & Investment Co Limited (Yu Wing) and Tai Chow Construction and Investment Limited. Yu Wing is a subsidiary of local real estate developer Yu Tai Hing Company Limited (Yu Tai Hing), which was founded in 1966 by Mr Law Kwok-hung's uncle, Mr Lo Siu-tong. Over the past half century, Yu Tai Hing has developed more than 300 housing projects, with Yu Wing as the contractor for most of its work. Mr Law Kwok-hung has also contracted for numerous diverse construction projects. His company has built over 300 buildings, ranging from residences and commercial buildings to hotels, public markets, military quarters and schools, as well as a host of kindergartens and social centres for the elderly under non-profit organisations. Mr Law's projects span the entirety of Hong Kong, from bustling urban areas to remote suburbs in the New Territories, and from simple-

structure schools to high-rise skyscrapers. These projects bear witness not only to Hong Kong's transformation from small fishing villages to an international financial centre, but also to Mr Law's accomplishments in his career.

Yu Wing is committed to quality, excellence and building safety, and Mr Law takes a hands-on, serious approach at work. 'Effective monitoring is the core of construction,' he emphasises. 'Only through strict quality control can we ensure structural safety. Hong Kong's current safety standards in construction lift it to the top in world ranking, which can be credited to effective monitoring measures.' Over a half century, Mr Law has insisted on inspecting construction sites every day to communicate with the workers from different levels, monitor the progress of work and ensure work safety, even during bad weather, and he has never regretted this. Yu Wing's employees can express their opinions to Mr Law directly. This helps communication from the bottom to the top. Mr Law also pays attention to his employees' welfare so that they can rest assured at work. Thanks to his endless endeavour and effective management, Yu Wing has prospered and expanded rapidly. A man of few words, Mr Law keeps a low profile and takes no credit for what he has accomplished. He rarely attends the opening ceremonies for new buildings. Instead, he finds it more satisfying, when he is visiting one of his properties, to be able to whisper to his children: 'Your father built this building.' Mr Law's children are all well-educated, humble and polite. This is also a reflection of Mr Law's personal and family education.

Mr Law's father passed away through ill health years ago. This loss prompted him to donate

towards research into digestive system diseases under the Faculty of Medicine at CUHK. 'Dr Sun Yat-sen, the founding father of modern China, died of carcinoma of the gallbladder in 1925. After nearly a century, there is still no appropriate cure for the disease.' Mr Law laments. 'As such, it is imperative to support medical research to make a breakthrough.' Since 2000, Mr Law has donated frequently to the Faculty in funding their teaching and research facilities and scholarships, and supporting their analyses, from causes to treatments. He is also dedicated to promoting medical innovation and alleviating suffering in the hope that these benefits can be spread to society at large. Mr Law's donations have also supported the I · CARE Programme by subsidising CUHK students to join a variety of social and civic engagement activities that serve the community and promote social enterprises and corporate responsibilities. He has also supported the University Lecture on Civility, a programme that brings world-renowned scholars to give lectures at CUHK, which inspire our students with their enlightened views on civility and the values which come from a proper education.

The great poet Du Fu wrote, 'If I could build mansions covering ten thousand miles, I'd house all poor scholars and make them beam with smiles.' Over the past 50 years, Mr Law has built more than 300 buildings ranging from residences, kindergartens to elderly centres. His efforts have offered pivotal housing to Hong Kong citizens, making them smile, allowing the young to receive education and the old to be self-reliant. In recognition of this pragmatic, low-key modern craftsman, this tribute is not limited to his generous donations to CUHK's education and research, but extends to his selfless contributions to society,

his remarkable diligence and exceptional virtue at work. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Law Kwok-hung for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.