

# Honorary Fellow A Citation

## Mr Li Kwok-sing Aubrey

In *Youxue Qionglin*, an enlightenment reading for children written in the Ming dynasty, it says: 'Follow your father's footsteps and carry on his ventures; preserve the family legacy and uphold its reputation.' The distinguished family of Li Pui-choi hails from Heshan of Guangdong. The Li clan has been well-known for their business acumen and, having moved to Hong Kong, they took the wise decision of setting up the Bank of East Asia in early years. Throughout the last century, the Li family members have all been successful and celebrated in both political and commercial fields. Li Pui-choi's grandson, Li Fook-wo, and great grandson, Li Kwok-sing Aubrey, having inherited the family traits, have helped expand the family's business and good name in Hong Kong. Compassionate and kind-hearted, they have both, amidst their busy schedules, undertaken tasks caring for the society and helping the underprivileged, to help shape a fair and just society. Also, they have exerted themselves to educating the young. The benevolent nature of the Li family and their good deeds are passed down from generation to generation.

The late Dr Li Fook-wo went to study in the US when young, and got himself enrolled in the University of Boston, majoring in Business Administration. Upon graduation, he pursued further studies at New York University and obtained a degree of Master of Science in Commerce. Returning to Hong Kong in the 40s, he worked for the family business—Bank of East Asia, and became one of its directors in 1958. He rose to the position of the Bank's Chief Manager in 1972, helping to take the family's business to the next level. Following in his father's footsteps, Mr Aubrey Li Kwok-sing also went to

the US to pursue further studies. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in Brown University, and then got an MBA from Columbia University. A veteran investment banker, Mr Aubrey Li has amassed over 40 years of experience in the financial sector. He was Managing Director of N M Rothschild & Sons in Hong Kong, and Vice-Chairman of the Asia Pacific Region of S G Warburg & Co. (now UBS). His service in these international institutions had equipped him with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the financial services sector and, on top of that, insight into the global markets. Then Mr Li started to strike out and set up his own business. He is Founder and Chairman of the IAM Family Office Limited (known as IAM Holdings (Hong Kong) Limited in the early days). At the same time, he also serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board of MCL Financial Group Limited. Both IAM and MCL are renowned financial service institutions in Hong Kong. Armed with invaluable investment and merchant banking experience, as well as knowledge of the capital markets, Mr Li is a highly sought-after professional in the financial circle of Hong Kong. On account of his shrewd financial knowledge and broad business network, he was invited to serve as Non-executive Director of a number of listed companies in Hong Kong: China Everbright International Limited, Café de Coral Holdings, Kowloon Development Company Limited, Kunlun Energy Company Limited, Tai Ping Carpets International Limited, Pokfulam Development Company Limited, etc. In 1995, Mr Li assumed the post of Director of Bank of East Asia. He is now Non-executive Director of the Bank and, in that capacity, provided strategies and visionary insights to help the Bank grow and thrive from strength to strength.

The late Dr Li Fook-wo had established a long-lasting relationship with The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) that could be dated back to as early as 1963. In that year, he accepted the appointment to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of Chung Chi College (CCC). From 1970 to 1976, he assumed chairmanship of the College Board. Like his late father, Mr Aubrey Li also has forged deep-rooted relationship with the University. In 1991, he joined the CCC Board of Trustees, and has been with the Board ever since. From 2015 to 2021, he was Chairman of the College Board. By now, Mr Li has walked hand in hand with the College for over 30 years. In all these years, he has worked tirelessly with the College with regard to charting its development plans and giving guidance on good governance. At the University central level, Mr Li's late father, Dr Li Fook-wo, was a member of the CUHK Council from 1970 to 1981. Around two decades later, Mr Li became a member of it, rendering his service to this supreme governing body for an extended period stretching from 2004 to 2021. Throughout these years, both father and son have made great contributions to the development of the University and Chung Chi College. Their good deeds have assisted CUHK to grow sturdily and soar high and far in the tertiary education sector. The University especially wishes to thank Dr Li Fook-wo and Mr Aubrey Li for having successively taken up the chairmanship of the CCC Board of Trustees, a record yet to be challenged. Their combined eminent years of dedication and loyal service to CCC extend across half a century, which will forever shine in the annals of the College. Educational endeavours aside, Mr Aubrey Li also follows closely in his father's footsteps in business ventures. He not only serves

the family enterprise but has also pursued investment and wealth management portfolios by starting his own family office business. For their contributions to higher education and the financial sector in Hong Kong, both father and son have garnered lots of praises from the community.

In addition to his business ventures, Mr Aubrey Li is also enthusiastic about public service and charity work. To that end, he has taken up quite a lot of community work including serving The Community Chest of Hong Kong, the School Management Committee of the Hong Kong Sea School, the Children's Education Trust Funds respectively for the Hong Kong Police Force and the Hong Kong Correctional Services, etc. Worthy of special mention is the period between 2002 and 2015, when Mr Li was the Treasurer of the CCC Board of Trustees. In that capacity, he vigilantly helped manage the College budget and guide the investment strategies of the College trust funds. Later he took on an even greater responsibility, the chairmanship of the CCC Board of Trustees. In both capacities, he put all his heart in giving sound advice on the effective management of the College. To ensure the College's sustainable development, Mr Li once said, 'We have to look far and beyond in charting the course for the continual development of the College, which encompasses setting its strategic plans and also its campus development master plan, in the wake of the changing landscape of the tertiary education sector. Such a route needs careful scrutiny and a detailed implementation scheme.' What is of much concern to Mr Li is how to help the College maintain its Christian education heritage and promote the spirit of humanities. Born into a Christian family,

Mr Li understands well the ideals of Christian education upon which the College was founded, which stresses the importance of instilling a set of moral values in students alongside with pursuing academic excellence. The aim is to inculcate in students a humble and liberal attitude in life, the desire to uphold the spirit of self-improvement in humanity, be compassionate and empathetic, and be true to oneself and have tolerance for others. All these display the universal love of Christianity, which also reflect the traditional Chinese virtues and heritage. Mr Li has also served the Sinological Development Charitable Foundation as its director. The Foundation has set up scholarships to sponsor research that helps promote global understanding of Chinese Studies and the quintessence of Chinese culture. Mr Li is also a Consultant of Barry & Marin's Trust, a charitable organization in the UK. The Trust gives out awards every year in commendation of medical staff in China who have made great contributions to the prevention and treatment of AIDS disease.

In order to support the continuous development of CCC and to promote its virtuous tradition, Mr Aubrey Li and his four elder sisters together generously funded the establishment of 'Fook Wo and Laura Jee Li Theatre' named after their parents. Their gracious act reflects the family's dedication to filial conduct and virtuous deeds. With the inauguration of the Theatre, the College is able to better promote diversified arts and cultural activities, encourage art appreciation, and advance a humanistic approach in life among the campus community.

Mr Chairman, we are here to pay tribute to the magnanimity and benevolence of Mr Li Kwok-sing Aubrey. Mr Li has inherited these virtues from his late father, Dr Li Fook-wo. Besides services in the financial sector, Mr Li has selflessly given his time to Chung Chi College and the University. His diligence and high morals help continue the Li family's legacy and set a good example for others. He is indeed an exemplary role model for our students. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Li Kwok-sing Aubrey for the Honorary Fellowship.