

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Dr Chou Wen Hsien, OBE, HonDSSc, JP

“Fine herbal medicine saves lives; with a sincere heart it is administered to tens of thousands of families like rain in season.” This is a couplet that hangs in the office of Dr Chou Wen Hsien, and it is a good reflection of his career objective at the time. Dr Chou is a renowned industrialist in Hong Kong. He founded the Winsor Industrial Corporation Limited many years ago and is now its Chairman and Managing Director. The Winsor group is a conglomerate with diversified business interests encompassing textile, garment, real estate, food, insurance and retail businesses, and its performance over the years has been most remarkable. However, educational and medical activities have always engaged his heart and mind.

Born in Shanghai, Dr Chou Wen Hsien is a native of Suzhou. He migrated to Hong Kong in 1947 and worked in a textile factory, where he developed his interest in the process whereby cotton was woven into yarn, which was then made into cloth, and the cloth cut and sewn to become garments. And there arose his desire for innovation and change. From then on he has had a most illustrious career in the business world that spans several decades. He was a pioneer in introducing new products such as powder detergent and instant noodles to the Hong Kong market, such is his intense interest in innovative products, and his audacious willingness to try out new ideas.

Dr Chou Wen Hsien is a learned and scholarly person of great intelligence, who, through his meticulous and analytical ways, is always capable of discovering the extraordinary in the ordinary, and replacing the old and stale with the refreshing and the new. Take his interest in medicine as an example: Dr Chou is convinced that medicine is meant to cure, and the medicine that cures, whether Western or Chinese, is good medicine. In the Western medical tradition, the efficacy of Chinese medicine has always been assessed from the Western pharmacological angle. If Chinese medical practitioners are to combat this prejudice, then it is essential that they carefully examine their own profession and identify its shortcomings. For it is a fact that everything has its positive and negative sides, and where doubts arise, answers are to be derived from empirical processes so that the roots of problems may be known, and the right and wrong established. Dr Chou Wen Hsien’s conviction is that “prevention is always more important than treatment”, and has accordingly devoted himself to Chinese health care and preventive medicine in recent years. He takes a particularly keen interest in research on oncological and cardiac diseases, these being the two greatest threats to health and lives. He has established the Hong Kong Association for Health Care Limited, a non-profit organization which publishes a health care magazine, and has entered into collaborative agreements with famous universities in the Mainland for the exploration of new areas in Chinese medical research. The Winsor Health Products Limited and the Hong Kong Association for Health Care joined hands with the Suzhou Medical College and set up the Suzhou Chinese Medicine Research Institute in 1991 with oncological, cardiac, diabetes and other related diseases and the development of new



drugs against these conditions as its major research interests. The Institute has now developed an extensive network of cooperation and exchanges with Chinese and overseas organisations, and its efforts have yielded substantial results. Furthermore, Dr Chou is working closely with the University of Shanghai in a research project on the effects of magnetic fields on the human body. It is known that Dr Chou had the intention of becoming a physician when he was young, and the will to help the sick and save lives has never left him. Now he is achieving his lifetime goal in various ways and in different forms, and on a much higher plane. He is determined to identify an effective way to treat cancer, an objective he will abide by in the days to come.

Dr Chou Wen Hsien is greatly concerned with the development of education in Hong Kong. He deems it very important to place equal emphasis on knowledge and ethics, as young children, if brought up to have regard for others and concern for community welfare, will become useful citizens. Dr Chou is the Chairman of the Winsor Education Foundation and the Chou's Foundation, which provide generous bursaries to needy students to help them complete their studies. The bursaries, which are awarded in the place of traditional scholarships, do not carry interest and are to be repaid to the Foundations after graduation. Thus there is a revolving fund from which successive generations of students in financial need may receive assistance. The charitable munificence of Dr Chou extends to all eight institutions of tertiary education in Hong Kong and a large number of students have been thus benefited.

While Dr Chou has moral education very much at heart, he also believes that the twin arts of literature and music can elevate the mind and refine manners and are therefore worthy of positive promotional effort. In 1996 he organised in Shanghai a contest of setting classical poetry to music, and submitted an anonymous entry for the poem *Berthing by the Maple Bridge at Night*. It so transpired that his composition came first among over 400 entries for being a splendid rendition of the ancient poem, which, lyrical and picturesque, is lightly tinged with a nostalgic sadness for the poet's homeland. From then on Dr Chou has gone from strength to strength in composing music for poems of the Tang and Sung Dynasties, having provided new settings for famous poems such as *On Crossing the Boca Tigris*, *Sailing Downstream from Nanjing*, and a number of ci masterworks. His compositions are well-wrought works cast in different musical forms, these being solo vocal works, choral works, *pingtan*, *yueju*, and symphonic music.

Dr Chou Wen Hsien is well-known for his philanthropic work and public services. He was Chairman of the Yan Chai Hospital, and is now Honorary Consultant to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Pok Oi Hospital, and Life Honorary Consultant to Yan Chai Hospital. He is Visiting Professor of Suzhou Medical College and Shanghai Medical University, and Honorary Consulting Professor of Shanghai Normal University. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hong Kong Music Institute. In 1975 Dr Chou was appointed Non-official Justice of the Peace, and in 1986 the University of East Asia in Macau conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*. He was awarded Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1987.



Dr Chou Wen Hsien's association with The Chinese University of Hong Kong dates back many years. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of New Asia College, and sits on the University Council as the College's representative. Over the years he has made significant contributions to college life, the setting up of infrastructural facilities, faculty and student activities, and the promotion of the arts and culture on campus. Mr Chairman, in consideration of his unswerving efforts in medical and educational services and in the furtherance of the twin arts of literature and music, I present Dr Chou Wen Hsien for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.