

### Mr James CHEN

Born in Hong Kong in 1961, Mr James Chen spent his primary school years in Lagos, Nigeria, where his family has business interests. At the age of ten, he was sent to England where he was educated at Stonyhurst College. He later received his high school diploma from a public high school in upstate New York. Mr Chen went on to the University of Chicago, where he earned a bachelor's degree in behavioural science in 1982.

The liberal arts tradition of the University of Chicago proved to be a lasting influence in his life. In the years that followed, Mr Chen attended an MBA course at Columbia University, and subsequently embarked on a series of daring and innovative entrepreneurial endeavours that included restaurants, real estate, finance, technology and healthcare.

Mr Chen returned to Hong Kong in 1990, where he took up the appointment of Asia Pacific Representative of Trammell Crow International, which at the time was the largest real estate development company in the world. In 1995, Mr Chen established Legacy Advisors Limited, one of the first single family service offices in the region, revolutionising the way the family invested and preserved its wealth.

In 2003, Mr Chen established the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation in honour of his late father, Mr Robert Chen Yet-Sen. The primary focus of the Foundation is education, specifically library and reading programmes promoting childhood literacy, as well as out-of-classroom experiential learning. In the words of Mr Chen, part of the Foundation's scope and purpose is "to challenge the nature of a good education in the Chinese context".

In that regard, the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation was designed to take a critical approach to education by challenging current notions of education in Chinese society. At the outset, Mr Chen realised that an organisation such as the Foundation would provide a greater degree of administrative freedom to help society in novel ways. As he said, the work of the Foundation offers him "the privilege to take on issues that are not necessarily popular or mainstream".

Mr Chen is also the co-founder and a current board member of Adlens Limited. Since 2005, Adlens has been developing unique variable focus eyewear for commercial and humanitarian markets across the world. Vision for a Nation, a UK registered charity founded by Mr Chen and piloting in Rwanda, is perhaps the most ambitious humanitarian vision programme ever attempted in history. By empowering Rwanda's health workers to provide vision assessments and affordable eyeglasses to all who need them, this programme will ensure that everyone in Rwanda who needs glasses will have access to a pair.

Regarding the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation's work in the area of child literacy, education and development in territories that include Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Western Africa, Mr Chen has expressed this view on philanthropy: "The key is not just giving away money, but rather taking the time and effort to understand specific

community needs, and formulating strategies to meet those needs." Mr Chen has attributed his deep commitment to public service to the example of his father, who gave generously not only of his money, but crucially of his time and care to his ancestral home in Qidong in Jiangsu Province, advising and admonishing the school and hospital administrators of institutions he funded to better serve their students and patients.

It was from this example that Mr Chen took the decisive position to focus the family Foundation on building up the quality of school libraries across China. Due to the sheer number of schools across China and the scale of the task, the Foundation began by fostering models of "best practice" for libraries in three main areas: offering funding for innovation, encouraging critical thinking and sharing these best practices with other schools.

Since 2005, the Foundation has worked extensively with specialist consultants trained in library science and early childhood literacy, who can help develop and equip libraries that are most conducive to learning. To date, the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation has organised three International School Library conferences devoted to fostering a reading culture in schools, and has founded the Stone Soup Happy Reading Alliance, dedicated to increasing student access to quality library resources in China.

The Foundation was also responsible for establishing the Hong Kong Chapter of Bring Me a Book, a charity whose mission is to provide easy access to the best of children's literature, inspire a love of reading among children, and promote parent-child reading. Through its Bookcase and Bookbag Library Programmes, Bring Me a Book Hong Kong has provided access to age-appropriate and culturally diverse books in different languages to children all over Hong Kong, especially underprivileged communities. Today, Bring Me a Book Hong Kong is recognised as the leading advocate of family and early childhood literacy in Hong Kong.

In addition, the Chen Family has pioneered the advancement of early education in China by establishing the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award, a biennial award for Chinese children's literature that seeks to highlight the very best authors, illustrators and publishers, inspiring greater and higher-quality production of original Chinese picture books. In 2009, the first Feng Zikai Award was won by *A New Year's Reunion*, written by Yu Liqiong and illustrated by Zhu Chengliang. This book has since been translated into English, Japanese and Korean, was chosen by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of only ten Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2011, and was included on the New York Public Library's list of Children's Books for Reading and Sharing in 2011.

Mr Chairman, for his distinguished service to the cause of education both in Hong Kong and in Mainland China, and for his commitment to many philanthropic causes, may I now present Mr James Chen to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*English citation written and delivered by Mr James Rice*

### 陳禹嘉先生

陳禹嘉先生1961年出生於香港，因家人經營生意之故，童年在尼日利亞拉各斯度過。十歲時，他被送往英國留學，就讀於斯托尼赫斯特學院，後來他在紐約州的公立高中取得高中畢業文憑，升讀芝加哥大學，於1982年獲得行為科學學士學位。

芝加哥大學的博雅教育傳統對陳先生影響深遠。畢業後，他修讀了哥倫比亞大學的工商管理碩士課程，隨後開展了一系列大膽而創新的企業及項目，橫跨飲食、房地產、金融、科技和醫療保健等界別。

陳先生於1990年回到香港，擔任當時全球最大的房地產開發公司Trammell Crow International的亞太區代表。1995年，陳先生成立Legacy Advisors Limited，是區內最早的單一家庭服務公司之一，為家庭財富投資及保值方式帶來革命性的改變。

2003年，陳先生註冊成立「陳一心家族基金會」，紀念已逝世的父親陳一心先生。基金會的首要重點工作是教育，特別是促進幼兒識字率的圖書館項目及閱讀計劃，以及教室外的體驗學習。陳先生指，基金會部分的工作範圍和目的是要「挑戰在中國環境之下良好教育的本質」。

「陳一心家族基金會」正是要通過具批判性的教育方法，挑戰中國社會當代的教育觀念。一開始，陳先生意識到基金會這類組織可以有更大行政自由度，以新穎的方式幫助社會。正如他所說，基金會的工作帶給他一份「殊榮」，讓他「著手對付未必流行或主流的問題」。

陳先生也是Adlens Limited的聯合創辦人兼目前的董事會成員。自2005年以來，Adlens一直為世界各地的商業和人道市場開發獨特的可變焦眼鏡。此外，陳先生更成立Vision for a Nation。這個在英國註冊的慈善團體正以盧旺達作試點，進行可能是史上最進取的人道主義視力項目。這個項目使盧旺達的醫護工作者得以提供視覺評估和實惠的眼鏡予有需要人士，讓盧旺達每個有需要的人都可得到一副眼鏡。

有關「陳一心家族基金會」於各地區包括香港、中國大陸及西非的兒童識字率、教育及發展等領域的工作，陳先生對慈善工作有這樣的見解：「關鍵不只是派發金錢，而是抽出時間和精力去了解一些社區的特定需求，並制定策略來滿足這些需求。」陳先生覺得自己對公共服務的熱切承擔，源於父親所奠下的榜樣。其父不但對江蘇省啟東市的祖居家鄉慷慨提供金錢援助，還獻出時間及關懷，為他資助的學校和醫院管理者提供建議及提示，協助他們更有效地服務學生及病人。

正是受此影響，陳先生為家族基金會設下明確的定位，集中在中國各地提升學校圖書館的質素。有見中國各地學校數量之多和工作規模之巨，基金會開始時從三方面促進「最佳實踐」模式，包括提供資金推動創新、鼓勵批判性思維及與其他學校分享這些最佳實踐經驗。

基金會自2005年以來已廣泛地與圖書館學及幼兒讀寫專家顧問合作，他們有能力發展及配置有利於學習的圖書館。至目前為止，「陳一心家族基金會」先後組織了三次「國際學校圖書館」會議，致力促進學校內的閱讀文化。基金會亦成立Stone Soup Happy Reading Alliance，專注於增加學生使用國內優質圖書資源的機會。

基金會還負責建立「書伴我行」的香港分會。此慈善團體旨在讓兒童更容易接觸最佳的兒童文學、激發兒童對閱讀的熱愛，及鼓勵親子閱讀。通過其Bookcase and Bookbag Library Programmes，「書伴我行」讓全港各區的兒童，特別是貧困社區的兒童，得以閱讀不同語言、適合自身年齡的多元文化書籍。今天，「書伴我行」(香港)已被公認為推動香港家庭及幼兒識字的領導組織。

此外，基金會更設立了「豐子愷中國兒童圖畫書獎」，率先推動中國幼年教育的前進。這個兩年一度的中國兒童文學獎，表揚最佳的作者、插圖師及出版商，並啟發各界製作更好、更高質素的原創中文圖畫書。2009年，第一屆獎項頒予余麗瓊著、朱成梁繪的《團圓》一書。這書隨後被翻譯成英語、日語及韓語，不但獲《紐約時報書評》選為十大兒童讀物之一，更被納入紐約公共圖書館2011年的兒童圖書閱讀和分享名單內。

主席先生，為表揚陳先生在香港及中國大陸教育事業方面的傑出服務，以及對多項慈善事業所作出的貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予陳禹嘉先生。

英文贊詞由James Rice先生撰寫及宣讀