

Mr Leong Cheung

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Leong Cheung is a business professional who believes in giving something back through philanthropy. From his earliest childhood he has experienced and benefitted from Hong Kong's "can-do" spirit of care, commitment and compassion. This, he says, has motivated him throughout his life.

Born in a small industrial town in Fujian Province, he describes his background as "humble". When he was seven years old, his family came to Hong Kong, where they moved into a makeshift hut provided by Mr Cheung's grandparents. Three years later the whole area was destroyed in a fire and the family had to move into a relief camp until they were given public housing. It was in this camp that he had his first encounter with social services and philanthropic organisations. In the relief camp, volunteers taught Mr Cheung English and other subjects. The experience had a profound effect on him throughout his life.

Mr Cheung and his family overcame adversity through what he refers to as the "Hong Kong spirit". In his view, "life is bound to have ups and downs, but it is how we fortify ourselves mentally that enables us to weather the storm". He describes himself as "optimistic" and "having an enquiring mind". Obviously he is someone whose optimism is underpinned by mental discipline. It is undoubtedly his discipline that underpinned his educational and professional achievements. He completed both his secondary and undergraduate education in Hong Kong and was recognised as one of Hong Kong's Ten Top Outstanding Students. He went to Harvard Business School with the backing of his then employer, the Boston Consulting Group, in recognition of his contribution to the firm, and graduated with a Master of Business Administration in 1998.

Today Mr Cheung is the Executive Director of Charities and Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club and is primarily responsible for managing its Charities Trust. Since taking up the position in 2014, Mr Cheung has been instrumental in shaping and implementing the Trust's new charities strategy, which has seen it adopt a more proactive role in addressing Hong Kong's social needs. Today, the Trust's approved donations are approximately HK\$4 billion a year, with money being donated across a broad spectrum of need. Indeed, the Trust is now one of the world's top ten private philanthropic foundations.

Mr Cheung's involvement in philanthropy and volunteering long predates his work with the Club and its Charities Trust. In high school he actively participated in community youth clubs. Later, as Managing Director at Esquel Enterprises Limited — a global leader in the textile industry — he helped its Chairman set up an education foundation which has built multiple schools, over 1,200 libraries, and provided a significant number of scholarships to primary schools in Xinjiang.

Mr Cheung is particularly keen to explore new approaches to satisfying social needs. He is a founding director and currently honorary advisor to Social Venture Hong Kong, which seeks to

provide innovative solutions to current and prospective urban challenges. Building on his passion for running, he also co-founded and remains the chairman of RunOurCity, which uses running to transform lives, particularly young lives. Mr Cheung and his partners provided the initial funding for RunOurCity and they remain its shareholders. So far it has trained over 11,000 young people, building up their physical and mental strength, so that from being non-runners when they started they can now take on distances of 10km and more. The RunOurCity platform has also helped raise over HK\$10 million to support over 30 Hong Kong charities.

Mr Cheung's contributions to society are also evident in his engagement with higher education, where he is particularly keen to introduce real-world experience into the classroom. As a part-time lecturer at The Chinese University of Hong Kong Business School, he initiated a semester-long "Consulting and Business Implementation" course and played a crucial role in its mentorship programmes. He was an Adjunct Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 2014 to 2017, and is now an Adjunct Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong Business School. He also previously served as a member of the Lingnan University Council and Court.

In addition to these roles, he is also a member of the Elderly Commission and the Community Care Fund of Hong Kong.

It is worth noting that Mr Cheung could easily have pursued a "profitable" business career to the exclusion of all other concerns. Instead he answered the call of his community and dedicated himself to serving its needs. Indeed, his work with The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust appears ideally suited to his goal in life, providing both the means and the opportunity to effect real and lasting change in the community.

Charity and philanthropic work has taught Mr Cheung essential lessons. In his view, philanthropy requires skills that go way beyond financial management. Humility and open-mindedness are essential components of the philanthropic endeavour. Empathy is no less important than understanding if you want to address needs sensibly and pragmatically. This is what he calls true "professionalism". It should be noted that "profession" once meant religious vows, a statement of creed. Mr Cheung's own profession, his statement of creed, would be simple. Two words: serve others. That is what he has done all his life to the significant benefit of Hong Kong.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Mr Cheung's professional achievements and his dedication and distinguished contribution to the social development of Hong Kong, it is my privilege to present Mr Leong Cheung for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Dr Padmore Amoah

張亮先生

榮譽院士

贊辭

張亮先生是一位熱心公益的商界專業人士，童年時的經歷讓他領會到關懷體恤、無私奉獻及全力以赴的「香港精神」，並因而受惠。他指出，這種思想不但啟蒙了他，且令他畢生受用。

張先生出生於福建省的工業小鎮，常以「基層」來形容自己的出身。七歲時，他跟隨家人移居香港，一家人住在由祖父母臨時搭建的寮屋內。三年後，一場大火燒毀了整個地區，張家先被安排入住難民營，及後才獲安置入住公屋。這場大火，令張先生首次接觸到社會服務和慈善機構。在難民營居住的日子裡，義工教授英語和其他學科。這些經歷給張先生的人生帶來了深遠的影響。

張先生一家憑著他口中常說的「香港精神」，成功走出逆境。他認為，「生命中一定有起有跌，關鍵在於我們以哪一種心態去渡過難關。」雖然張先生形容自己「為人樂觀」及「具備探究精神」，但絕非隨便說出這番話來。毫無疑問，這種思維不但讓他學有所成，其後更造就了他的專業成就。張先生在香港完成中學及大學課程，期間曾獲得香港十大傑出中學生殊榮。投身職場後，當時的僱主波士頓諮詢公司 (Boston Consulting Group) 為了肯定他對公司的貢獻，推薦他負笈哈佛商學院繼續進修，他並於1998年取得哈佛工商管理碩士學位。

今天，張先生任職香港賽馬會慈善及社區事務執行總監，主要負責馬會慈善信託基金的管理事務。自2014年出任該職位起，張先生一直銳意拓展慈善工作，更積極主動地滿足本港社會的不同需要。時至今日，馬會位列全球十大非政府慈善捐助機構之一，每年審批的捐款約達40億港元，惠澤社區各階層人士。

張先生任職馬會之前，早已投身慈善公益及義工服務行列。在高中時期，張先生已積極參與社區青少年團體活動。其後，他在世界紡織業龍頭溢達企業有限公司 (Esquel Enterprises Limited) 擔任董事總經理時，曾協助該公司主席成立教育基金會，在新疆興建多間學校，開設逾1,200間圖書館，並為眾多小學生提供獎學金。

張先生尤其熱衷實踐創新意念，並運用社會企業的力量，以滿足社會群的需要。他是香港社會創投基金的創會董事，亦是該基金的榮譽顧問。該基金的宗旨是致力透過創新的解決方案，來應對社會當前及未來的挑戰。熱愛跑步的張先生亦是「全城街馬」的主席及創辦人之一，該社會企業旨在以跑步帶來正面改變，特別是針對年輕人。張先生

和其他合伙人均為「全城街馬」注入啟動資金，並一直擔任該社企的股東。該機構至今培訓了逾11,000名青年，鍛鍊他們的體能和意志，幫助他們由跑步新手，蛻變成為10公里甚至更長途程的跑手。「全城街馬」這個平台亦曾幫助30多個香港慈善組織，為它們籌得1,000多萬港元的善款。

張先生亦不遺餘力為本地高等教育作出貢獻，積極將實際經驗帶入課室。他於出任香港中文大學商學院兼職講師期間，曾開辦一個學期的「諮詢與商業實踐」(Consulting and Business Implementation) 課程，並在其導師計劃中擔當重要角色。2014至2017年，張先生任職香港理工大學兼任教授。他亦曾任嶺南大學校董會及諮議會成員。目前，他是香港中文大學商學院兼任教授，以及安老事務委員會和關愛基金的成員。

值得一提的是，張先生本可繼續在商界大展拳腳，創出一番「錢途」，但他卻選擇了身體力行回饋社會。他現時的工作與人生目標不謀而合，讓他有機會竭盡所能，為社會帶來實質而長遠的改變。

從慈善公益事業所累積的工作經驗，給張先生帶來了重要的啟發。他認為，從事慈善公益活動講求的不只是財務管理技巧，更需要謙遜和開明等不可或缺的元素。還有，同理心也一樣重要，這樣才能真正了解不同人士的需要，以合理實用的方案解決各項問題，對他來說，真正的「專業精神」就在於此。張先生在公益事業上秉持一貫熱誠，服務社群，從而為香港帶來更大的福祉。

主席先生，為表彰張先生的專業成就，以及他致力於本港社會發展所作出的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予張亮先生。

贊辭由柏墨博士撰寫及宣讀