

Mr Samuel N Tsien

Mr Samuel N Tsien is an outstanding banker with over 30 years of working experience in the banking industry. Born in Shanghai and raised in Hong Kong, Mr Tsien majored in Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles. Shortly after his graduation in 1977, he joined Bank of America (Hong Kong) as a management trainee. He had held various key positions in corporate banking and credit risk management in Hong Kong and the US. In 1995, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America (Asia). Prior to this, he was named Senior Vice President of Bank of America Corporation in 1993, and subsequently Executive Vice President in 1996. When China Construction Bank fully acquired Bank of America (Asia) in December 2006, Mr Tsien assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation following the equity transfer. He joined the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC Bank) in Singapore in July 2007 as Global Head of Business Banking, and was promoted to Group Chief Executive Officer of the bank in April 2012.

Based in Singapore, OCBC Bank is one of the world's most highly-rated banks, ranked by Bloomberg Markets as the world's strongest bank for two consecutive years in 2011 and 2012. Building on its success, OCBC Bank has been further developing the Greater China market in recent years. Thus its appointment of Mr Tsien as CEO at this critical stage is testimony to its trust in and great expectations of him.

Mr Tsien has had remarkable achievements in the banking industry, and believes that one of the social responsibilities of a bank is to make the best use of funds to help the economy grow. During his service at the Bank of America, he often adjusted the bank's financing strategy and direction of development according to the changes in Hong Kong's economic environment. For example, the financing emphasis of the bank was shifted from manufacturing to the shipping and trade industries, in order to conform to the transformation of Hong Kong's economic structure. He was also devoted to opening up markets in Macau and the Mainland, capturing development opportunities in both places. Mr Tsien's insight and boldness brought impressive results to the bank he served, and the bank's services also helped to propel the economic transformation of Hong Kong, promoting economic development in the Greater China region.

A robust financial system can foster investment and development. Convinced that risk management and regulation are essential, Mr Tsien paid special attention to staff members' conduct and risk management of the bank, constantly enhancing the level and transparency of its corporate management. He has also contributed significantly to the development of the banking and financial industries in Hong Kong through his public service, particularly in regulatory work for Hong Kong's financial industry. He had been appointed a member of the Insurance Advisory Committee, the Securities & Futures Appeals Tribunal and the Banking Advisory Committee by the HKSAR Government. He had also served as Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers.

Mr Tsien's work in the banking industry coincided with a period of significant reform in the financial market of China. Frequently traveling between Hong Kong and the Mainland, he fostered communication and exchanges between the two places. In particular, during his tenure as Chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, he actively promoted various professional training courses and examinations on the Mainland, while study tours to Hong Kong and overseas countries were jointly organised for the Mainland financial industry by the Institute and the banking industry of China. Such efforts contributed substantially to raising the professional standard of China's finance talents as well as broadening their international vision. After taking up the position of Chief Executive Officer of OCBC Bank, Mr Tsien continued to meet scholars and officials from and in mainland China to study the changes and developments of the current Chinese economy.

Mr Chairman, for his outstanding achievements in his professional field as well as his contribution to the financial development of both Hong Kong and mainland China, may I now present Mr Samuel N Tsien to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

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