

## Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun GBS, JP

Born in Macau and raised in Hong Kong, Mrs Sophie Leung Lau Yau-fun was touched by an essay titled “Say No to Mediocrity”, written by a Jiangsu student for the university entrance examination. The student wrote: “A spirit which aspires to conquer mediocrity is what distinguishes the ordinary from the extraordinary.” But what is the meaning behind this and why was Mrs Leung so touched?

Mrs Leung was touched because it summarised the approach she had taken throughout her life. Achieving the best within one’s capabilities is more important than the achievements seen by others.

For the last 15 years, Mrs Leung has been very involved with the youth in Hong Kong. She often notes that society owes our youth a lot, because while we have brought them into this world, we have not done our part to equip them for the new era, or show them the beauty of our culture or ancestral philosophy. We have left them halfway between the West and the old East, and they are hard put to find an identity. It is only logical that we need to do more for them.

Mrs Leung received her bachelor’s degree in computer science from the University of Illinois in 1969. She was a computer software engineer until the 1970s, when she and her husband founded their own company in the garment export industry. Her alma mater bestowed upon her the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2002 and the Madhuri and Joadish N Sheth International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement in 2006.

As one of Hong Kong’s key figures in the garment and textile industries, Mrs Leung now serves as a member of several key government and non-government organisations and institutes that support and enhance the development of these industries in Hong Kong and southern China. She was appointed a member of the Steering Committee on the Development of Fashion Industry, a high-level strategic committee established in 2002 by the HKSAR Secretary for Commerce, Industry & Technology. For many years, she has been an active member on the Textiles Advisory Board chaired by the HKSAR Secretary for Trade & Industry, and has been a director of the Textile Council since its establishment in 1991.

Mrs Leung has always been a strong advocate of good corporate governance. She co-founded the Hong Kong Institute of Directors in 1997 to nurture directorship for the top management of companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Outside the business world, Mrs Leung is noted for her public service in many areas. She was a founding member of the Hospital Authority when it was established in 1989 and was an active board director until 2002, doing what she could to carve a new path for Hong Kong’s health care system. She has assumed the chairmanship in the governing committees and management boards of major hospitals such as Queen Mary Hospital, Castle Peak Hospital, Tsan Yuk Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital and the prestigious, privately-funded Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. While serving as Chairperson of Yan Chai Hospital in 1984, she recognised that there was room for improvement in the management of hospitals. She has since contributed to the launching of many reform initiatives at major hospitals.

In early 2001, Mrs Leung was appointed by the HKSAR Government as the founding chairperson of the Women’s Commission, whose goals are to promote the well-being and interests of women in Hong Kong. Under her leadership, the Commission pioneered several projects, one notable example being the Capacity Building Mileage Program which is still aired on Commercial Radio every evening, bringing knowledge of life and the world to women who otherwise would be bogged down by home chores. She capitalises on her excellent connections with women’s organisations overseas to elevate Hong Kong’s position as a world-class city that pays women the respect they deserve.

Various charitable, religious, social service and educational organisations benefit from Mrs Leung’s advice as well, including the Chi Lin Elderly Service and Chi Lin Trust Fund for the Aged, Hong Kong Baptist University, and the University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development & Research. When she co-founded and served as Vice-chairperson of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) of Hong Kong, she initiated the “Change for Good” programme on Cathay Pacific Airways, the very first on international flights. This programme has raised over HK\$133 million for UNICEF, benefiting children in 160 countries over the past 25 years.

Mrs Leung is also the founder and chairperson of The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council, a non-profit organisation that seeks to cultivate entrepreneurial spirit, business acumen and leadership qualities in the youth of Hong Kong. Its work is assisted by a wide spectrum of members and volunteers drawn from the commercial sector, the public sector, and professionals. Since its inception in 1998, the Council, through the two major programmes it operates, has inspired the hearts of some 20,000 students in Hong Kong.

The world is full of new ventures and challenges. For Mrs Leung, all these offers opportunities to learn new things. When her first grandson arrived, she indulged herself in searching for good baby recipes. Subsequently, “My First Bite”, a baby’s cookbook, was published under the Sophie Leung Healthy Living series. Being the first baby’s cookbook with Chinese cuisine, it was very well received and over 5,000 copies have been sold. All the profits were donated to charity.

Mrs Leung started her political career as a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong in 1996. She became a deputy of the National People’s Congress of China in 2003. She gave up her seat in Legco in 2012, after 15 years of service.

Mrs Leung tirelessly advises young people to dream big and to seek fulfillment in life through hard work and sincerity. She believes one can only find continuous satisfaction in those pursuits that go beyond materialistic rewards.

A mother of three children and a grandmother of three grandsons, Mrs Leung is an outstanding member of the community who cares for children, youth, women and the elderly. She sees work as a source of life fulfillment, and has worked fervently and tirelessly throughout her life. Mrs Leung is an example to all of us, and particularly to our students who are nurtured in the spirit of liberal arts education at Lingnan.

Mr Chairman, for her distinguished service to the Hong Kong SAR Government and to the wider community, may I now present Mrs Sophie Leung Lau Yau-fun to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*English citation written and delivered by Prof Ho Lok-sang*

## 梁劉柔芬女士

生於澳門而成長於香港的梁劉柔芬女士，曾經深受一篇題為《拒絕平庸》的文章所感動。文章是由一位江蘇省的學生在大學入學試中撰寫的。他在文中寫道：「是否有一顆超越平庸的心，是平庸與出眾者的分別。」這句話背後的意思是什麼？為何梁女士會如此感動？

梁女士深受感動，因為這句話概述了她的人生態度。在能力範圍內做到最好，比看得見的成就更重要。

過去15年，梁女士積極參與香港的青年事務。她經常指出，我們的社會對年輕人虧欠不少，因為我們把他們帶到這世界，卻沒有為他們裝備好迎接新世代，也沒有向他們展示我們優美的文化或先祖哲學。我們把他們夾置於西方與古舊東方之間，以致他們難以確定身分。我們為他們多出一分力，實在是理所當然的事。

梁女士於1969年取得美國伊利諾大學電腦科學學士學位後，任職電腦軟件工程師；直到70年代，她與丈夫成立成衣出口公司。她分別於2002年及2006年榮獲母校頒授「傑出校友獎」及「Madhuri及Joadish N Sheth國際校友傑出成就獎」。

梁女士是香港製衣及紡織業內舉足輕重的人物，現時身兼多個支持這些行業的主要政府及非政府機構成員，致力促進行業在本港及華南的發展。她曾獲委任為時裝業發展統籌委員會成員；該委員會是香港特別行政區工商及科技局局長於2002年設立的高層次策略委員會。多年來，她是紡織業諮詢委員會的活躍委員，而該委員會當年由香港特別行政區工商局局長擔任主席。自香港紡織業聯會於1991年成立開始，她已是該聯會的會董。

梁女士一直大力提倡優秀企業管治。她在1997年協力籌辦香港董事學會，為香港交易所上市公司的最高管理層培育董事。

商界之外，梁女士在多個範疇的公職服務亦備受注目。醫院管理局於1989年成立時，她是創辦成員之一，到2002年為止一直是醫院管理局董事局的活躍成員，竭盡所能為香港的醫療保健制度開闢新的路向。梁女士亦先後在瑪麗醫院、青山醫院、贊育醫院、仁濟醫院、聖母醫院及享負盛名的私營養和醫院等大型醫院擔任管治委員會及董事局主席。她於1984年擔任仁濟醫院主席時，意識到醫院的管理確有改善空間，自此便致力在各大醫院推行多項改革措施。

2001年初，梁女士獲香港特別行政區政府委任為婦女事務委員會的創辦主席，委員會旨在促進香港婦女的福祉和權益。在她的領導下，委員會率先創辦了多個項目，例子之一是為人熟悉的「自在人生自學計劃」節目，該節目現時仍然每晚在商業電台播出，為家務纏身的婦女提供與生活及世界息息相關的知識。梁女士藉着與多個海外婦女組織的良好關係，讓外國人認識香港對婦女的尊重，從而提升香港作為世界級城市的地位。

梁女士樂於為不同機構提供寶貴意見，令多家慈善、宗教、社會服務及教育機構得益，其中包括志蓮安老服務、志蓮安老信託基金、香港浸會大學及香港大學教研發展基金。她協力籌辦聯合國兒童基金會香港委員會，並在擔任委員會副主席之時創立了首項在國泰航空國際航班上籌款的「零錢布施」計劃。25年來，這項計劃已為聯合國兒童基金會籌得逾一億三千三百萬港元，惠及160個國家的兒童。

梁女士也是青年企業家發展局的創辦人兼主席。該局屬非牟利機構，旨在培養本港青年的企業精神、商業頭腦及領導才能，在不同界別人士的協助下推展工作，其成員及義工來自商界、公營機構及專業界別。自1998年創立以來，該局透過兩項大型計劃，已啟發了本港約二萬名學生的心。

世界充滿新的商機和挑戰。對梁女士來說，這些商機和挑戰帶來了學習新事物的機會。當她的長孫出生時，她到處搜羅優質嬰兒食譜，其後更出版了《第一口滋味 — 簡易嬰兒料理》這本「梁劉柔芬健康生活系列」的嬰兒烹飪書。由於這是第一本面世的嬰兒中式食譜，廣受歡迎，現已售出逾五千本，所得盈利全部撥歸慈善用途。

梁女士的政治生涯始於1996年，最初擔任立法會（當時為立法局）議員，後於2003年獲委任為全國人民代表大會代表。當了15年立法會議員後，她於2012年放棄議席。

梁太太循循善誘地勸勉年輕人要有遠大夢想，透過努力工作和待人以誠尋求生命的滿足。她相信只有超越物質回報的追求，才能覓得持久的滿足感。

身為三名子女的母親和三名孫兒的祖母，梁女士對兒童、青年、婦女及長者關懷備至，是社會傑出的一員。她認為工作是滿足生命的源頭，因此一生孜孜不倦地熱誠工作。梁女士是大眾的典範，對我們在嶺大博雅教育精神中培育出來的學生來說，尤其如此。

主席先生，為表揚梁女士對香港特別行政區政府及社會的卓越服務，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予梁劉柔芬女士。

英文贊辭由何灤生教授撰寫及宣讀