

Prof Anna PAO SOHMEN SBS

Born in Chongqing in 1945, Prof Anna Pao Sohmen grew up in Hong Kong and attended Ying Wah Girls' School in Hong Kong. At the young age of 16, she was already involved in community service, volunteering her spare time by assisting at the Ma Tau Wai Road Girls' Home. To further her education, she went to the US in 1963 where she attended Purdue University, majoring in psychology and sociology.

After graduation, she was awarded a scholarship and attended the University of Chicago for graduate studies in social administration, while working as a part-time waitress and assisting disadvantaged inner city black youth. She also attended McGill University, and earned a master's degree in social work while gaining experience working with mentally ill patients. During her years as a full-time mother in UK, she studied History of Architecture at London University and Visual Art & Decorative Art at Victoria & Albert Museum. She also took a part-time diploma course at the London School of Economics.

"Exercise persistently, use sparingly, work diligently" was the motto of her father, Sir Y K Pao, who had been forced to flee from his native Shanghai and seek refuge in Hong Kong in 1949. It is well known that by the 1970s Sir Y K Pao had become the world's largest private ship owner. This same ideal of hard work, diligence and frugality, and the principle of "re-use, reduce, recycle", have been adopted by his daughter Anna. Writing in a highly insightful biographical work entitled *Y K Pao, My Father* (published in 2005 in Chinese, 2013 in English), Prof Pao Sohmen commemorates the life of Sir Y K Pao not only as a highly successful businessman who built up the world's largest private fleet in only 15 years, but also as a father and family man. Of great interest in this regard are Prof Pao Sohmen's observations surrounding her father's tireless work as a "diplomat". She writes about her father's discussions with Chinese and British statesmen during the critical time when there were differences between China and the UK regarding the return of Hong Kong. He managed to influence Mrs Margaret Thatcher to accept the inevitability of the return of Hong Kong to China.

In addition to a successful business career, Prof Pao Sohmen has devoted her life to the cause of education as well as the promotion of culture and the arts. She is Chairman of World Wide Education Group Limited, founding governor of the Chinese International School, former Chair of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Honorary President of Ningbo University and Heilongjiang University, and Advisory Professor of Shanghai Jiaotong University and Tongji University. She received an Honorary Doctorate from Purdue University for her advocacy of liberal arts education for engineers. In her efforts to advance the cause of bilingual education, Prof Pao Sohmen founded the YK Pao School in 2007 in memory of her father and to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the return of Hong Kong to China. In this regard she said, "Education is how we can inspire and change the future. That is why we founded this school — to build a school for tomorrow's China." She also aspires to build a distinctive Chinese school. Since its establishment, the YK Pao School has adopted a Chinese curriculum which combines with international practice, a bilingual environment and a focus on whole person education, a learning outcome that is shared by Lingnan University.

Apart from her career, Prof Pao Sohmen has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to a wide range of charitable causes. She has served as Chairman of Hong Kong Hong Chi Children's Fund, Chairman of Hua Xia Foundation and a council member of Shanghai Soong Ching Ling Foundation. She helped found Hong Kong Helping Hand, as well as the Liver Foundation to support the cause of liver transplant, and assisted over 100,000 cataract patients in Sichuan regain their sight.

Prof Pao Sohmen is also passionate about the arts and conservation, and has helped to restore one of Hong Kong's historical treasures, Bethanie House, turning it into The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' School of Film & Television. For this project, she restored the chapel by reinstating the original lost stained glass windows and wooden carved doors, thus providing young couples with a venue for marriage ceremonies. Presently, she is also a member of the National Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a member of the standing committee of the Zhejiang CPPCC, as well as a former member of the standing committee of the Heilongjiang CPPCC. She was one of the first recipients of the Mont Blanc International Cultural Award in 1994. She earned the Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Award organised by The Hong Kong Women Professionals & Entrepreneurs Association in 1999, and the Leading Women Entrepreneur of the World Award in Venice in 2000. These were in recognition of her entrepreneurial spirit in transferring German technology to China, and adapting it to the local climate. She also received the Silver Bauhinia Star from the HKSAR government in 2005 and the title of "Model Citizen" from the Zhejiang government in 2006.

Prof Pao Sohmen has been avante-garde in all her endeavours: from advocating the establishment of Putonghua class in the late 1970s at Eton College in the UK and insisting on the establishment of Putonghua curriculum in the early 80s at the Chinese International School in Hong Kong, promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong and Mainland China back in the late 1980s, to making use of heritage buildings for the public in 2006, or even simply starting an art gallery in Hong Kong in 1982. Prof Pao Sohmen was trained in ballet and piano since a young age and she won the championship in ballroom dancing in the US Open in 2004. She just returned from a performance at Tokyo Superstars this August in a dress she designed herself. Apart from designing her own clothes, she has also designed pieces of jewelry.

Mr Chairman, for her distinguished service to the cause of education in Hong Kong and Mainland China, for her commitment to charitable causes and contributions to culture and the arts, may I now present Prof Anna Pao Sohmen to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

English citation written and delivered by Mr James Rice

包陪慶教授

包陪慶教授1945年生於重慶，在香港長大及接受教育，曾就讀英華女學校。她早於十六歲時已積極參與社會服務，閒時到馬頭圍女童院當義工，1963年遠赴美國，於普渡大學主修心理學及社會學。

包教授畢業後獲芝加哥大學獎學金，修讀社會行政研究生課程，兼職侍應之餘，亦為內城的弱勢黑人青年義務工作。她其後取得麥基爾大學的社會工作碩士學位，期間累積了不少照顧精神病患者的經驗。她在英國全職照顧孩子時，曾就讀倫敦大學，主修建築歷史，並於維多利亞及艾伯特博物館修讀視覺及裝飾藝術。此外，她在倫敦經濟學院修讀兼讀文憑課程。

「持恆健身、勤儉建業」是包教授的父親包玉剛爵士的座右銘。包爵士1949年被逼逃離上海到香港，於七十年代成為「世界船王」。身為女兒，包陪慶教授繼承了父親的勤儉作風，更奉行「循環再用、減少使用、廢物利用」的環保宗旨。包教授分別於2005年及2013年出版了見解精闢的傳記《包玉剛·我的爸爸》的中文版及英文版，回憶包爵士於僅僅十五年內建立了一支全球最大的私人船隊，更描述包爵士作為父親和對家庭付出的生活點滴。當中最有意思的，是包爵士努力不懈的「外交工作」：包爵士與中英兩國元首交情深厚，當中英雙方就香港回歸談判陷於困局之際，他努力游說戴卓爾夫人接受香港回歸中國，作出了偉大的貢獻。

包教授營商的成就卓著，亦將一生奉獻於教育及文化藝術。她身兼多職，包括環球教育集團有限公司主席、漢基國際學校創辦人及首席理事、香港演藝學院前主席、寧波大學及黑龍江大學榮譽校長，以及上海交通大學及同濟大學的顧問教授。此外，她又獲普渡大學頒發榮譽博士學位，表揚她在倡導工程師接受博雅教育方面的貢獻。為推進雙語教育、紀念父親及香港回歸中國十週年，包教授於2007年創辦了一所以父親命名的包玉剛實驗學校。她表示：「教育才能啓迪和改變未來，這也是我們創辦這所學校的原因——為明天的中國」，而她亦渴望能建立一所獨特的中國學校。自創校以來，包玉剛學校採用國內的課程，結合國際教育方法及雙語環境，並致力發展全人教育，與嶺大致力實現的學習成果同出一轍。

除事業外，包教授在慈善工作方面也有很大貢獻。她曾任匡智會主席、華夏基金會主席及上海宋慶齡基金會理事，亦是伸手助人協會及支援肝臟移植的香港肝壽基金的創辦人之一，也曾在四川啟明十萬多名白內障患者。

包教授熱衷藝術及保育舊建築物，曾協助復修香港歷史瑰寶之一的伯大尼修院，變為香港演藝學院的電影電視學院。復修期間，包教授親力親為，令教堂原已散失的彩繪玻璃窗和雕花木門得以復原，使它成為香港青年可使用的婚禮場所。包教授現為中國人民政治協商會議（全國政協）委員兼浙江省政協常委，並曾任黑龍江省政協常委。1994年，她成為首批萬寶龍國際文化獎得獎者之一，1999年獲香港女工商及專業人員聯會頒發傑出女企業家獎，並於2000年在威尼斯獲頒世界傑出女企業家獎，表揚她把德國的生產技術引入中國，並按當地環境調適產品，具有創業精神。包教授於2005年獲香港特別行政區政府頒授銀紫荊星章，並於2006年獲浙江省政府授予浙江省「愛鄉楷模」稱號。

包教授高瞻遠矚，早於1970年代末已倡議在英國伊頓公學辦普通話班，另在80年代初堅持在香港漢基國際學校開設普通話課程。她自1980年代末至今一直致力推動可持續發展意念，於2006年提出開放歷史建築予公眾使用，早於1982年已提出在香港開設藝廊，可見其前瞻眼光。包教授自小學習芭蕾舞及鋼琴。她於2004年在美國國標舞公開賽中贏得錦標賽冠軍，並於今年八月穿著自己設計的連身裙在Tokyo Superstars上演出。除設計衣服外，她愛好設計首飾。

主席先生，為表揚包教授在香港及中國大陸教育的傑出服務、對慈善事業的熱誠以及對文化藝術的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予包陪慶教授。

英文贊辭由James Rice先生撰寫及宣讀