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胡文瀚博士 -- 香港東區扶輪社 1957-1958 年度社長

Dr. James Wu Man-Hon, OBE, JP

President 1957-1958 Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

1 April 2015



Dr. The Honorable James Wu Man-Hon (胡文瀚/胡應沾) (18 November 1920 - 23 February 2006), OBE, *HonLLD (HKU)*, *HonDEng (HKPoly)*, BSc (Eng) (*Sun Yat Sen*), JP, was President 1957-1958 of Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club (香港東區扶輪社).

James was born in 1920 in Pokfulam (薄扶林村), the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, given the name as Wu Ying-Jim (胡應沾) by his father Mr. Wu Chung (胡忠), a leading merchant and founder of the Weatherite Industries, often nicknamed “King of Taxi” who operated one of the major taxi fleets “Central Taxi”. His younger brother, Sir Gordon Wu (胡應湘爵士), KCMG, GBS, FICE, is a prominent architect and real estate developer.

James received his elementary education at the Dun Mei School (敦梅學校), a famous Chinese school, and subsequently at the King’s College (英皇書院) in the Hong Kong Island. He and his classmates started free summer schools for underprivileged children in their early student days. After graduating from King’s College, he went on to become an engineering student of the University of Hong Kong (香港大學) in 1940. But because of the Pacific War and the Imperial Japan’s invasion and occupation, James was forced to continue his studies at the National Sun Yat Sen University (國立中山大學) in Canton (*Guangzhou*) (廣州) and obtained a Bachelor Degree in mechanical engineering. There he and another student organized a Hong Kong University alumni association which helped over 100 refugee students completing their studies.

After the War, James assisted his father to re-establish the family business by operating taxi service, hotels, studios, theatres, real estates as well as air-conditioner and electrical engineering. James had been trained as a cab driver as a teenager and worked as a mechanical engineer for the Highway Bureau of the Kwangtung (*Guangdong*) Provincial Government (廣東省政府). On the other hand, James also established in 1952 China Cold Storage & Engineering Co. which became the first air-conditioner manufacturer in Hong Kong under the *Weatherite* brand using licensed technology from *Westinghouse*. In the business world, James was an industrialist and real estate owner. He was the chairman of the Hopewell Holdings Ltd. (合和實業有限公司) and the Saiweite Industrial Co., Ltd. (威特實業有限公司). Under his chairmanship, Hopewell expanded its infrastructural business in South China, Thailand and the Philippines.

With his vocational services, James had been Chairman 1975-1980 and later Life Honorary President of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (香港工業總會). He was also a vice-president of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (香港中華廠商聯合會). James also had led the Hong Kong delegation to the conferences of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East on five occasions. He was also the chairman of the Industrial Development Committee of the Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee, in which he attracted massive Japanese participation in technology transfer in the field of high-precision tooling for electronics components. James was recognized by receiving permanent membership of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in 1987.

James had done much to help Hong Kong in the fields of educational and industrial progress. He was a founder member and Vice Chairman of the Council of Hong Kong Polytechnic (香港理工學院) which was established in 1972 and involved himself personally in the recruitment of its academic staff. He had also maintained his links with the University of Hong Kong and donated money in 1991 to establish the "James Wu Computer Laboratory for Systems Engineering" (胡文瀚電腦輔助系統工程實驗室).

In recognition of his services and contributions to the economy and human resources investment of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic conferred upon James in 1991 the Degree of Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*. The next year, Hong Kong University conferred upon James the Doctor Degree of Laws, *honoris causa*. (Read citation on Page 3).

James also served as an Unofficial Member of the Urban Council from 1968 to 1973 and the Legislative Council from 1972 to 1979. He was vocal on providing the requisite infrastructural support for the development of vast industrial estates. James had been appointed to many public positions, including the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Vocational Training Council, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

In recognition to his remarkable services, James was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1974.



University of Hong Kong



144th Congregation (1992)

James WU Man Hon

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

"Jimmy Wu has many good ideas except they do not agree with mine".

That was a remark by a senior civil servant in the 1970s who thought James Wu Man Hon was an idealist. This same idealist, who championed the establishment of industrial parks, the need for technology transfer and the importance of applied research and product development, must have been proud that many of his "dreams" are gradually coming true.

James Wu Man Hon has gone a long way since his pioneering days attending to his father's taxi business and establishing Weatherite Industries. His engineering education at the University of Hong Kong and Zhongshan University laid a solid foundation for innovative enterprises in engineering, education and industry. His achievements were recognised by the government in the 1960s and 1970s when he served on the Urban Council, the Legislative Council, the Trade Development Council, the Vocational Training Council and the Productivity Council. He impressed on the government the importance of providing the requisite infrastructural support for the development of vast industrial estates. To Jimmy,

good factory and product design and processing and quality assurance are all essential. As Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, he alerted the community in the 1970s to the need for diversification and sophistication in our manufacturing industries as economic interdependence between China and Hong Kong grew. In a territory where there was a dearth of financial support for research and development in technology, James Wu was able to attract massive Japanese participation in technology transfer in the field of high-precision tooling for electronics components when he served as Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee of the Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee. International recognition of his work includes Permanent Membership of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers in 1987 and Honorary Citizenship of Guangzhou in 1991.

James Wu's staunch belief in human capital investment led to two decades of total devotion to the development of the Hong Kong Polytechnic when he served as Deputy Chairman. His insistence on interviewing every single candidate for teaching posts must have cost him dearly as he was expected to be making money for his family business. Support for engineering education is one of his priorities and three engineering departments benefited from funding for the purchase of equipment. Jimmy Wu was made Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1974. Likewise, the Hong Kong Polytechnic acknowledged his devotion in 1991 by conferring on him an Honorary Doctorate in Engineering.

In the same way that the Hong Kong community has benefited from his valuable input, so has the Wu family from his entrepreneurial skills. Hopewell Holdings under his chairmanship has grown into a giant in capital construction and land development, providing infrastructural support for a future megalopolis in South China and for Thailand and the Philippines. As someone well exposed to the Confucian classics, the following from the *Book of Great Learning* will be appreciated by our graduand:

"The superior man learns in order to reach the utmost of his principles. He may not be without foresight and vigorous endurance. His burden is heavy and his course is long".

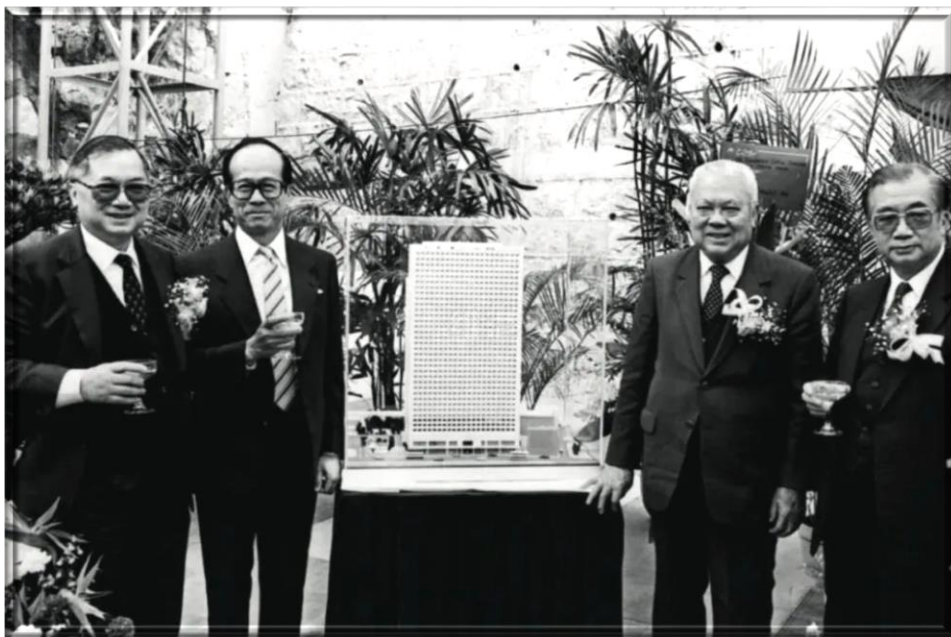
Mr. Chancellor, in honouring our student of 1940, the University acknowledges not only his contribution to industry and education but also his vision for a better Hong Kong. It is therefore my privilege to present to you James Wu Man Hon for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Lee Ngok, the Public Orator.



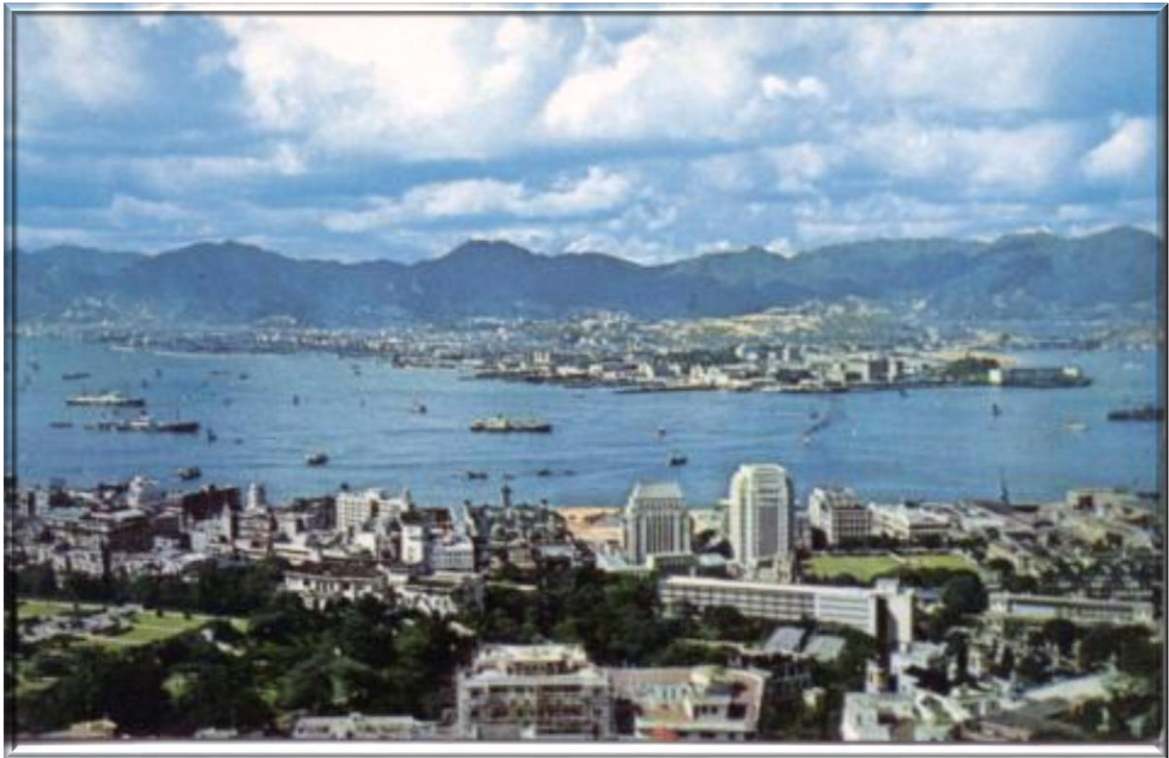
(胡忠全家福) 胡忠與江素琛育有胡應沾(文翰)(後排中央)、胡慧貞、胡慧芳、胡應洲、胡慧英、胡慧彤、胡應湘、胡應沈、胡應濱等共五子四女，組成一個龐大家族。

James Wu, the tallest young man standing, in the family photo with parents (sitting) and 8 younger sisters and brothers.



胡文瀚與父親胡忠 (右 2)、弟弟胡應湘 (左 1)、和李嘉誠 (左 2)。

James Wu and father Wu Chung (R2), younger brother Gordon Wu (L1) and Mr. Li Ka-Shung (L2)



1957年的香港維多利亞港 -- 最高的大樓是中國銀行，毗鄰的巨大建築是香港上海匯豐銀行。

The Victoria Harbour of Hong Kong in 1957---The highest building was the Bank of China, while the huge building neighbouring was the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.



1957年的香港島東區 Hong Kong Island Eastern District as in 1957.



1978 年香港工業總會主席胡文瀚議員宣佈正式推行香港優質產品審定計劃和「購用港貨運動」。
In 1978, Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Honourable James Wu Man-hon, announced the formal implementation of the Hong Kong Quality Product Certification Scheme.



1978 年 12 月 16 日——香港工業總會主席胡文瀚議員與“香港小姐”陳文玉（左）參觀香港工業產品展覽。
16 December 1978 -- James Wu Man-hon, Chairman of Federation of Hong Kong Industries, and “Miss Hong Kong” Winnie Chan Man-yuk (left) touring the “Buy Hong Kong” Exhibition. (Getty Images)

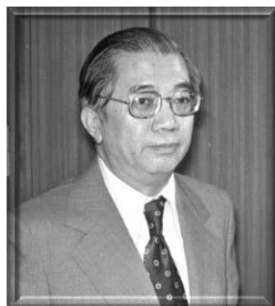


1978年1月29日—(左起)香港工業總會主席胡文瀚、立法局議員陳壽霖、工業週展覽會主席、香港大學校長黃麗松參觀部分工業週展品。29 January 1978 -- (from left) James Wu Man-Hon, Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries; Legislative Councillor Chen Shou-Lum; K. C. Yan, Chairman of the Industrial Week exhibition; and Rayson Huang Li-sung, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, look at some of the Industrial Week exhibits.



1983年11月11日—(左起)十進制委員會主席胡文瀚、香港小姐楊雪儀、市政局街市及小販專責委員會主席岑才生、公制稱量工作小組主席葉若林在寶靈頓道街市主持公制化運動啟動儀式，以提高大眾對公制計量的認識。11 November 1983 -- (from left) James Wu Man-Hon, Chairman of the Metrication Committee; Miss Hong Kong Cher Yeung Suet-Yee; Shum Choi-Sang, Chairman of the Urban Council's Market and Street Traders Select Committee; and Yip Yeuk-Lam, Chairman of the Metric Weighing Counter Working Group, officiate at the opening ceremony of the Metrication Campaign at Bowrington Road Market to promote public awareness of metric measurements.

胡文瀚博士 -- 香港東區扶輪社 1957-1958 年度社長



胡文瀚博士 (Dr. The Honorable James Wu Man-Hon, OBE, *HonLLD (HKU)*, *HonDEng (HKPoly)*, BSc (Eng) (*Sun Yat Sen*), JP) (1920 年—2006 年) 為香港東區扶輪社(Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club)1957-1958 年度社長。國立中山大學(National Sun Yat Sen University) 工程學學士(1945)、香港理工學院(Hong Kong Polytechnic)榮譽工程學博士(1991)、香港大學(Hong Kong University)名譽法學博士(1992)，歷任香港非官守太平紳士、香港市政局非官守議員、香港立法局非官守議員、香港理工學院校董會副主席、香港工業總會主席/永遠名譽會長、香港中華廠商聯合會副會長/永遠名譽會長、合和實業有限公司主席/榮譽主席等等。

胡文瀚 1920 年出生於大英帝國香港島薄扶林村，原名胡應沾，香港商人「的士大王」胡忠的長子，胡應湘爵士的長兄。幼承庭訓，讀於敦梅學校。後升讀英皇書院(King's College)，1940 年入讀香港大學工科。1941 年太平洋戰爭爆發，十二月日本帝國軍隊攻陷香港。胡文瀚避難到中國廣州，在國立中山大學完成學業，獲機械工程學學士銜。1945 年戰爭結束後，襄助父親復業，並創辦酒店、電影、戲院、房地產、冷氣機及電機製造業等。

身為長子，年齡又與諸弟妹們相差頗大的胡文瀚，在協助父親「的士」(計程車)生意的同時，在父親支持下，早在 20 世紀 50 年代已開始了旅遊及有關冷氣工程的生意。隨著社會日趨富裕，冷氣機(空調機設備)越來越受到市民歡迎，市場空間巨大。不過由於價格不菲，尚未成為必需品，所以在當時很少有人留意到相關市場。即使留意，也因為製造技術要求太高，很少有本地商人或生產商敢踏入這片新領域。但胡文瀚是冷氣工程專業出身，當他注意到這個新市場後，勇敢投入其中，率先研發和生產。並在 1959 年 6 月推出首台香港生產的冷氣機，轟動社會。這也證明香港工業不只是生產低價值產品，並把「香港製造」推上更高層次。

1960 年，胡文瀚與美國威斯汀國際電子(Westinghouse Electric International Inc.) 簽訂協議，獲得生產「威斯汀」品牌冷氣機的授權。他更斥資 100 萬元從美國購入相關的先進生產設備，提升產品質量。進入 20 世紀 70 年代，隨著冷氣機更加普及，銷量節節上揚。看準市場空間還會持續擴大，胡文瀚將分家後手上的資金投入其中，並在 1975 年成立惠風工業有限公司(Weatherite Industries Ltd.)，進一步擴大了生產的投資。這一舉措不但提升了生產質量及銷售量，擴大公司的市場佔有率，其個人收入與財富也與日俱增，名望聲譽日隆。

在風風火火地發展冷氣機業務的過程中，胡文瀚還敏銳地察覺到冷藏貨倉市場。他認為相關生意大有可為，於是與家人聯手斥資購地，興建冷藏倉庫。無論是規模及貨倉數目，都成為

業界首屈一指的領頭人。胡文翰先後擔任合和實業有限公司董事長，威特實業有限公司董事長，還是美國冷氣工程師學會會員。

在打理家族及個人生意之餘，胡文翰也對政治及社會事務興趣濃厚，積極參與。早在上世紀 50 年代，他已參與不少工商業活動。1960 年代起，在社會事務方面，胡文翰曾先後擔任香港中華廠商聯合會副會長及永遠名譽會長、貿易發展局副主席、香港生產力促進委員會副主席，並擔任香港工業訓練委員會副主席，職業訓練局、香港房屋委員會等組織的委員。

1975 年至 1980 年胡文翰擔任香港工業總會主席，卸任後被委任為名譽會長。1978 年領導工總實行「購用港貨」行動，並於同年推出香港優質產品計劃「Q 嘜」（優質品牌）標記，大力推動香港工業發展，受到民眾、工商界的稱頌。他先後五次以香港代表團團長身份參加聯合國亞洲遠東經濟委員會各工業及資源委員會會議。在一般人心目中，胡文翰可以說是胡氏家族對外的一張名片。

在社會服務方面，除了是一名資深扶輪社員，胡文翰也曾任保良局首總理。保良局是香港慈善團體，於 1878 年 11 月 8 日在香港成立。自此，保良局秉承着「保赤安良」宗旨，初期主要是遏止誘拐婦孺，為受害者提供庇護及教養。隨着香港社會的轉變，已成為香港歷史悠久及具規模的慈善機構之一，主要服務還包括教育、安老、家庭福利、青少年輔導等等。

1968 至 1973 年香港總督戴麟趾爵士(Sir David Clive Crosbie Trench)委任胡文翰太平紳士為香港市政局非官守議員，參與地區事務的商討和決策。1972 年更獲得總督麥理浩爵士(Sir Crawford Murray MacLehose)提升為香港立法局非官守議員至 1979 年，地位更加重要。為了表彰他對社會的卓越貢獻，1974 年英國女王伊麗莎白二世授予胡文翰「最優秀的大英帝國官佐勳章」(Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) (OBE)。

在商界，胡文翰是一位工業家和地產商，他也曾大力協助香港的教育和工業，貢獻良多。早年學生時代，已和同學為貧苦兒童辦暑期免費學校，造福社會。在廣州國立中山大學繼續學業時期，他和另一同學組織香港大學校友會。該會曾幫助百名以上逃難的香港大學學生，完成他們的學業。1972 年胡文翰繼續他對教育的工作，是香港理工學院(香港理工大學前身)創辦者之一。擔任香港理工學院校董會副主席及教職員聘用委員會主席，親自招聘學院的教職員。多年來，他與香港大學保持密切聯繫，並捐款設立「胡文翰電腦輔助系統工程實驗室」，供系統工程學師生使用。

為表揚胡文翰對社會的多方面貢獻，1991 年，廣州市人民政府頒授「榮譽市民」榮銜；還有香港理工學院授予榮譽工程學博士學位。

1992 年，香港大學授予胡文翰名譽法學博士學位，由大學監督、香港總督彭定康先生(Mr. Chris Patten)主持(圖見第 3 頁)。其他同期榮譽畢業生包括前任香港總督麥理浩勳爵(The Right Honourable the Lord Crawford Murray MacLehose of Beoch)；中國歷史學家余英時教授；前任香港大學教務長紀朗達(Mr. Norman John Gillanders)；前任皇家亞洲學會香港分會會長許舒博士(Dr. James William Hayes)；前任香港心理衛生會、小童群益會和香港痲痺協會主席關愛睿牧師(Reverend Erik Kvan)。

