

# Eminent Rotarians on the Honorary Graduates Roster of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)  
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With over eight decades of proud tradition and ranking among the world's top 100 institutions, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) (香港理工大學) aspires to be an innovative world-class university with a strong sense of social responsibility, driven by its motto, "To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind" (開物成務 勵學利民).

The University provides the best holistic education to nurture socially responsible leaders of tomorrow who possess a strong sense of national identity and a global perspective and pursues impactful innovation and interdisciplinary research to address the world's most pressing challenges. A robust culture of knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of the University, ensuring PolyU's technologies are transformed into practical real-world applications. The professional education model of PolyU adopts a unique experiential learning approach which comprises of Work-Integrated Education, Service-Learning, Overseas Exchange Opportunities, Leadership Programmes and Entrepreneurship Education.

The University takes lead in a range of disciplines on the global academic arena, including hospitality and leisure management, art and design, civil and structural engineering, social sciences and public health, to name just a few.

Situated in the heart of the city, PolyU's campus features state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, as well as a wide range of innovative undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate degree programs across nine faculties and schools: Business, Construction and Environment, Engineering, Health and Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, Design, Fashion and Textiles, and Hotel and Tourism Management.

## History

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is a public research university in Hung Hom, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China. The University is one of the eight government-funded degree-granting tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. Founded in 1937 as the first Government Trade School, it is the first institution to provide technical education in Hong Kong. In 1994, the Legislative Council of Hong Kong passed a bill which granted the former Hong Kong Polytechnic official university status.

### Government Trade School (1937–1947)

In 1937, the Government Trade School (香港官立高級工業學院) was founded at Wood Road (活道), Wan Chai (灣仔). The School was the first publicly funded, post-secondary technical institution in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. Under George White, the principal, it ran classes in marine wireless operating, mechanical engineering and building construction. The campus was a three-storey high Victorian architecture, and commonly referred to the “Red Brick House” by the locals.

### Hong Kong Technical College (1947–1972)

After World War II, the Government Trade School became the Hong Kong Technical College (香港工業專門學院) in 1947, offering both full-time and part-time courses. In 1957, the new campus of the College located in Hung Hom was constructed. The opening was officiated by Sir Alexander Grantham, the Governor of Hong Kong (香港總督葛量洪爵士).

### Hong Kong Polytechnic (1972–1994)

In 1965, Dr. The Honourable Chung Sze-Yuen, Unofficial Member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council (香港立法局非官守議員鍾士元博士) suggested establishing a polytechnic in Hong Kong to provide post-secondary technical education. Dr. Tang Ping-Yuen (唐炳源博士) (Charter President 1936-1937 of Wusih Rotary Club 無錫扶輪社, China) was appointed by the Government as the chair of the Polytechnic Planning Committee in May 1969. On 24 March 1972, the Legislative Council passed the 《Hong Kong Polytechnic Ordinance》 and the institute was established as Hong Kong Polytechnic (香港理工學院). Sir Chung assumed the first chair of the Polytechnic Board of Directors (later renamed Polytechnic Council in 1978). The Polytechnic’s mandate was to provide professional-oriented education to meet the need for qualified workers. The institution launched its first five degree programmes in 1983, and introduced its first MPhil and PhD programmes in 1986 and 1989 respectively.

### The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (1994–Present)

In 1994, the institution gained approval from the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee (大學及理工教育資助委員會) for self-accreditation of degree programmes, without the restrictions from the 《Post-Secondary Colleges Ordinance》. With that, the institution assumed full university status on 25 November 1994, changing its name to “The Hong Kong Polytechnic University” (香港理工大學).

## Honorary Doctorates

An honorary doctorate degree is an academic degree for which a university (or other degree-awarding institution) has waived all of the usual requirements. It is also known by the Latin phrase *honoris causa*. The degree may be awarded to someone who has no prior connection with the academic institution or no previous postsecondary education.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic began in 1989, and later the University since 1994, to confer honorary doctorates which are awarded to individuals who have made valuable contributions to the world or to humanity, and also to those who have made significant contributions to academia, to Hong Kong or to the University. These distinguished individuals may be awarded one of the 8 classes of honorary degrees: (1) Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa* (榮譽工商管理博士); (2) Doctor of Design *honoris causa* (榮譽設計學博士); (3) Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa* (榮譽工程學博士); (4) Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa* (榮譽人文學博士); (5) Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* (榮譽法學博士); (6) Doctor of Letters *honoris causa* (榮譽文學博士); (7) Doctor of Social Science *honoris causa* (榮譽社會科學博士); and (8) Doctor of Technology *honoris causa* (榮譽科技博士).

### 1990 Doctor of Engineering (DEng)

#### The Honourable Allen Lee Peng-Fei (李鵬飛議員)

CBE, FHKIE, BS (Michigan), JP



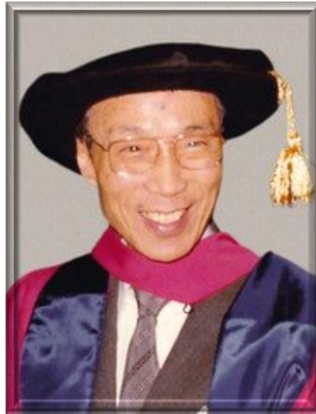
大埔扶輪社榮譽社員

Honorary Member, Rotary Club of Tai Po, Hong Kong

1991 Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)

Sir Run Run Shaw (邵逸夫爵士)

Kt, CBE, *HonDLitt (HKBC)*, *HonDHum (SUNY)*, *HonDSc (CityPolyHK)*,  
*HonDLitt (Sussex)*, *HonDSocSc (East Asia)*, *HonDSocSc (CUHK)*, *HonLLD (HKU)*



九龍扶輪社 1966-1967 年度社長  
President 1966-1967, Rotary Club of Kowloon, Hong Kong

1991 Doctor of Engineering (DEng)

Dr. The Honorable James Wu Man-Hon (胡文瀚博士)

OBE, *HonLLD (HKU)*, M.ASHRAE, BSc(Eng) (*Sun Yat Sen*), JP

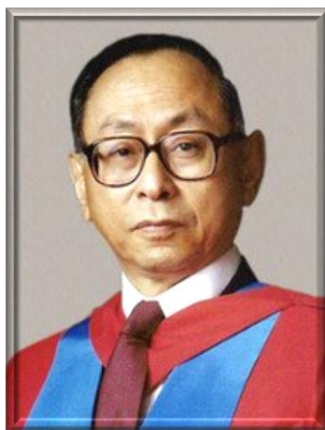


香港東區扶輪社 1957-1958 年度社長  
President 1957-1958, Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East

1992 Doctor of Laws (LLD)

Dr. The Honorable Sir Ti-Liang Yang (楊鐵樑爵士)

Kt, *HonDLitt (HKU)*, *HonLLD (CUHK)*, FCIArb, LLB (*UCL*), JP



香港扶輪社 1983-1984 年度社長  
President 1983-1984, Rotary Club of Hong Kong

1996 Doctor of Social Science (DSocSc)

Dr. The Honorable Sir Harry Fang Sin-Yang (方心讓爵士)

Kt, CBE, *HonLLD (CUHK)*, *HonLLD (HKU)*, MCH.ORTH,  
FRACS, FACS, FRCPE, FRCSE, MSc (*Liverpool*), MBBS (*HKU*), JP



香港扶輪社榮譽社員  
Honorary Member, Rotary Club of Hong Kong

1998 Doctor of Engineering (DEng)

Ir. Joseph Chow Ming-Kuen (周明權工程師)

OBE, CEng, RPE, FHKIE, FICE, FStructE, FCIT, BSc(Eng) (HKU), JP



香港西區扶輪社 1987-1988 年度社長  
President 1987-1988, Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West

2013 Doctor of Laws (LLD)

Patrick Poon Sun-Cheong (潘燊昌)

ASA, MAAA, BSc (HKU)



香港海港扶輪社 1986-1987 年度創社社長  
Charter President 1986-1987, Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour



*Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1972*



*Hong Kong Polytechnic University -- Landscape of the main campus in Hung Hom today*