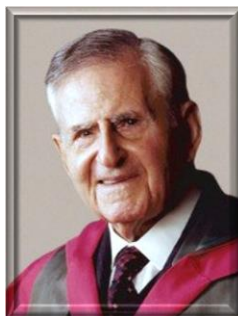


Sir Horace Kadoorie
Honorary Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Kowloon
By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)
22 April 2015



Sir Horace Kadoorie (賀理士·嘉道理爵士), Kt, CBE, *HonDSocSc (HKU)* (28 September 1902 – 22 April 1995), Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Kowloon (九龍扶輪社) in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港), was a British-born Hong Kong industrialist, hotelier, and philanthropist of Sephardi Jewish descent, renowned for his leadership in the family business empire and extensive charitable work supporting refugees, rural development, and social welfare in Asia.

Born in London to Sir Elly Kadoorie, a Baghdad-born entrepreneur who emigrated to Hong Kong in 1880 and built a vast commercial network in utilities, real estate, and hospitality, Horace was the younger of two surviving sons (his brother being Lawrence, later Lord Kadoorie). The family relocated to England in 1910 but returned to Asia amid World War I, with Horace and Lawrence attending school in Shanghai (上海) of the Republic of China (中華民國) from 1914 onward. He was educated earlier at Ascham St. Vincent's in Eastbourne and Clifton College in Bristol. During the 1920s and 1930s, Horace managed the family's Shanghai operations, including their opulent residence Marble Hall (大理石宮), while his father expanded the empire to include the iconic Peninsula Hotel (半島酒店) and China Light & Power Co., Ltd. (中華電力有限公司).

In the lead-up to World War II, Horace founded the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association (上海猶太青年會) in 1937 and helped establish a committee to aid approximately 20,000 European Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution, including setting up a school that served as a haven for refugee children. He was interned by Imperial Japan's forces from 1941 to 1945. After the War, he collaborated with his brother to rebuild the family enterprises in Hong Kong, serving as a director of China Light & Power and chairing the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd. (香港上海大酒店有限公司) for 35 years, overseeing luxury properties like the Peninsula. His business acumen contributed significantly to Hong Kong's post-War economic growth, though he increasingly focused on philanthropy over direct commercial leadership.

Horace's humanitarian efforts emphasized self-reliance, exemplified by the 1951 co-founding with Lawrence of the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (嘉道理農業輔助會), which provided infrastructure (roads, bridges, wells), livestock grants, farm buildings, and training to impoverished rural immigrants and villagers in Hong Kong's New Territories (新界), enabling approximately 20,000 families and villagers to become self-sufficient farmers through the 1960s and establishing the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (嘉道理農場暨植物園) as a key training center. He extended this practical approach to supporting Nepalese Gurkha soldiers transitioning to civilian life in Hong Kong and agricultural projects in Nepal.



The Kadoorie father and sons, pictured in the mid-1920s. (L-R) Horace, Elly and Lawrence

The Story of Horace Kadorrie

Early life and education

The Kadoorie family originated as Iraqi Jews from Baghdad, where they had settled as merchant farmers many centuries prior, forming part of the Baghdadi Jewish community known for its commercial acumen and philanthropy. The family's progenitor, Şālih Kadoorie (d. 1876), was a prominent philanthropist in Baghdad who established educational institutions there. As Sephardi-influenced trading networks expanded across the British Empire, the Kadoories migrated to Bombay in the mid-nineteenth century, leveraging connections with firms like E. D. Sassoon & Company to enter Asian commerce. This move positioned them within broader Jewish diasporic enclaves in colonial ports. Their British subject status, acquired through imperial ties, facilitated business ventures while their Jewish heritage deeply informed a tradition of cross-community giving.



The Marble Hall (大理石宮) – Originally conceived as a Jewish Country Club, Marble Hall became the Kadoorie Family’s home in 1924 and a centre of social and charitable activities in Shanghai. Early guests included the famous Indian poet Sir Rabindranath Tagore and the first American aviators to circumnavigate the globe. After the Second World War, Marble Hall briefly became the unofficial Allied Headquarters in Shanghai. In 1953, soon after the Communists came to power in China, the Kadoories handed Marble Hall to Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s widow, Soong Ching-Ling (孫中山遺孀宋慶齡), for her Children’s Welfare Institute (中國福利會). The building still functions today as the Children’s Palace.

Horace's father, Sir Elly Kadoorie (1867–1944), was a pivotal figure who transformed the family's modest beginnings into a vast industrial empire. Born in Baghdad, Elly arrived in Hong Kong via Bombay in 1880 at age 13, starting as a clerk before founding Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons (嘉道理父子有限公司), which diversified into rubber trading; stock broking; banking; electricity and gas; wharves, docks, and shipyards; hospitality; property development; engineering; and later, textile manufacturing and aviation across Hong Kong and Shanghai. His investments included major stakes in the China Light & Power Co., Ltd., supplying electricity to Kowloon and the New Territories, and the Hong Kong & Shanghai Hotels, Ltd., solidifying the family's economic dominance in colonial Asia. Elly's knighthood in 1926 underscored his integration into British colonial society, though he remained committed to Jewish causes, endowing schools and hospitals in the Middle East. During World War II, he was interned by Japanese forces in Hong Kong and died in captivity in 1944.

Sir Elly's brother, Sir Ellis Kadoorie (1865–1922), served as Horace's uncle and played a key role in expanding the family's enterprises, particularly in Hong Kong. A bachelor who focused on local investments, Ellis acquired significant shares in utilities and hospitality ventures, including the aforementioned hotel company in 1914, and was knighted in 1917 for his contributions. His philanthropy mirrored the family's heritage, funding educational initiatives like a Physics Chair at the University of Hong Kong (香港大學) and agricultural schools in Mesopotamia for both Jews and Arabs.

Horace's elder brother, Sir Lawrence Kadoorie, Baron Kadoorie (1899–1993), formed a lifelong partnership with him in managing the family businesses postwar. Born in Hong Kong, Lawrence shared Elly's vision, later receiving a knighthood in 1974 and a life peerage in 1981 for services to civic and philanthropic endeavors. This fraternal collaboration, rooted in their shared Jewish identity and British affiliations, sustained the Kadoorie legacy in commerce and charity across Asia.

Horace was born on 28 September 1902 in London, United Kingdom, to Elly Kadoorie, a prominent Baghdadi Jewish businessman, and his wife Laura (née Mocatta). The family, which included Horace's older brother Lawrence and a younger brother Victor who died in infancy, enjoyed considerable wealth derived from their trading and real estate ventures in Asia.

In 1910, the family relocated from Hong Kong to England, but Elly soon returned to Hong Kong due to business issues before moving to Shanghai. In 1914, amid World War I, Horace and Lawrence were unable to return to England after a family trip to Canada and instead continued to Shanghai, where Horace spent much of his formative years in affluent surroundings, immersed in the cosmopolitan environment of the city's International Settlement (上海公共租界). From a young age, he was exposed to the family's expanding enterprises, including the operations of Sir Elly Kadoorie & Sons, which fostered an early appreciation for business acumen and global commerce. As members of the Sephardi

Jewish community, the family maintained strong ties to Jewish traditions, including synagogue attendance and cultural practices, while instilling values of communal support and philanthropy exemplified by Sir Elly's charitable initiatives.

Horace was educated at Ascham St. Vincent's in Eastbourne, followed by Clifton College in Bristol, England, and was a member of Polacks House, a boarding house solely for Jewish boys at Clifton, from 1913 to 1914. He then attended the Shanghai Cathedral School (Thomas Hanbury School) (座堂學校/漢璧禮公學) from 1914 onward, reflecting the family's peripatetic lifestyle across continents. Horace did not pursue higher studies, instead integrating into the familial and social circles that would shape his future endeavours around age 18.

Early career in Shanghai

Horace Kadoorie began his professional career in Shanghai during the 1920s, initially working alongside his brother Lawrence for the prominent businessman Sir Victor Sassoon (沙遜爵士), where they managed operations at Sassoon's flagship luxury property, the Cathay Hotel (華懋飯店) (now the Peace Hotel 和平飯店). This role immersed Horace in the hospitality sector amid Shanghai's rapid urbanization and status as a cosmopolitan hub, honing his skills in managing high-end establishments frequented by international elites. By the late 1920s and into the 1930s, Horace transitioned to supporting his father, Sir Elly Kadoorie, in the family's expanding industrial portfolio, which included key utilities like the Shanghai Gas Co., Ltd. (上海自來火房) and real estate developments capitalizing on the city's economic surge. These ventures reflected the Kadoorie clan's diversification beyond trade into infrastructure, leveraging Shanghai's booming population and foreign concessions to build substantial assets.

Horace's collaboration with his brother Lawrence was integral to these early endeavours, as the siblings jointly oversaw family operations in Shanghai's multicultural business landscape, blending British colonial influences with local Chinese dynamics to navigate complex partnerships. Their shared efforts strengthened managerial expertise within the family's empire, which spanned hotels, power generation, and property amid the era's commercial vibrancy.

Through these roles, Horace gained early exposure to Shanghai's vibrant yet vulnerable Jewish community, particularly as European refugees began arriving in the mid-1930s fleeing Nazi persecution. In 1937, he founded the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association to provide vocational training and support for local and incoming Jewish youth, and helped establish a committee to aid approximately 20,000 refugees, including setting up a school that served as a haven for refugee children. This involvement marked the beginning of his humanitarian commitments amid the growing refugee influx.

The pre-World War II period presented significant challenges for Horace's work, including economic volatility from global depressions, local labour unrest, and escalating

Sino-Japanese tensions, such as the 1932 Shanghai Incident (一二八事變/淞滬戰爭) and the full-scale invasion in 1937, which disrupted business stability and forced strategic relocations of assets. With the Imperial Japan's occupation of Shanghai in 1941, Horace was interned by Japanese forces until the end of the War in 1945, halting his professional activities during this period.

Post-war business leadership

Following his release at the end of World War II, Horace returned to Hong Kong in 1945, joining his older brother Lawrence in rebuilding the family business empire amid the Colony's devastation from Japanese occupation. The brothers collaborated closely with the British Military Administration to procure surplus U.S. military supplies, facilitating infrastructure reconstruction and economic stabilization. Their efforts centered on key family holdings, including China Light & Power Co., Ltd. (CLP), where Horace served as a board member from 1948, contributing to the utility's post-War recovery and expansion to meet Hong Kong's growing energy demands during rapid industrialization.

Horace played a pivotal role in The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd. (HSH), becoming a director in 1945 and chairman from 1950 to 1985, as well as new enterprises such as Tai Ping Carpets (太平地氈). Under his leadership, the company oversaw the revival and expansion of its hospitality portfolio, with the iconic Peninsula Hotel in Hong Kong serving as the flagship property. He directed major renovations in the 1960s and 1970s to modernize the 1928 landmark while preserving its classical grandeur, positioning it as a global symbol of luxury and a hub for international business and royalty. Horace's strategic oversight extended to rehabilitating war-damaged assets like The Repulse Bay Hotel (淺水灣酒店) and launching new ventures, such as Gaddi's Restaurant in 1953---where he personally designed the initial menu---and the acquisition of the Peak Tramways Co., Ltd. (山頂纜車有限公司) in 1971, which enhanced tourism offerings. These initiatives diversified HSH into dining, retail, and aviation partnerships, including catering for Swissair (瑞士航空) from 1958 and a joint venture with Cathay Pacific (國泰航空) in 1968, solidifying the group's role in Hong Kong's burgeoning service sector.

Kadoorie Family as one of the major shareholders in 1980 joined hands with Jardine Matheson Group (怡和集團) to form Lombard Alliance Insurance Co., Ltd. (隆聯保險有限公司) (LAI)---a leading general insurer for HSH, CLP as well as the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Plant (大亞灣核電站), etc. (Another major shareholder of LAI was the Harilela Family. From 1981 to 1985, Herbert K. Lau has served LAI as Sales Superintendent while he was an Active Member of the Rotary Club of New Territories 新界扶輪社.)

Through board positions in CLP, HSH, LAI and related entities like the Hongkong Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. (香港工程建築有限公司)---which developed the luxury Kadoorie Estate (嘉道理花園) in Kowloon---Horace supported family interests in electricity, real estate, and utilities from the 1950s to the 1980s. His decisions emphasized sustainable

growth, such as expanding power infrastructure via CLP to fuel economic recovery and advocating for government policies that bolstered rural and urban development, without delving into personal finances. These contributions aided Hong Kong's transformation into a major financial hub, with family enterprises powering industrial expansion and hospitality tourism. By the mid-1980s, Horace shifted toward semi-retirement, delegating operational leadership to the next generation while continuing advisory roles until his death in 1995.

Aid to Jewish refugees

In 1937, Horace Kadoorie founded the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association (SJYA) to support the Jewish community in Shanghai, particularly young people facing economic hardship and limited opportunities. This initiative, inspired by his observations of malnourished children at the existing Shanghai Jewish School (上海猶太學校), quickly expanded to address the growing influx of European Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. By 1939, the SJYA established a dedicated school---Shanghai Jewish Youth Association School (上海猶太青年會學校) later known as the Kadoorie School---in the Hongkew (*Hongkou*) District (虹口區), adjacent to the emerging Shanghai Ghetto (上海隔都-無國籍難民限定居住區), which provided education, vocational training, and recreational activities for refugee youth. The School ultimately educated around 1,000 young refugees during World War II, serving as a critical haven amid the Japanese occupation of the city. Horace was deeply involved in the day-to-day operations of the SJYA, leveraging his family's resources to deliver essential aid to the refugees despite the challenges of Japanese control. He personally oversaw the provision of food through meal programs, medical supplies, education in subjects like mathematics, Hebrew, and business skills, and assistance with housing and employment via an on-site bureau. These efforts were vital in the overcrowded Shanghai Ghetto, where over 18,000 Jews were confined by 1943, helping to sustain families escaping the Holocaust. Horace's role extended to organizing summer camps and recreational events, fostering a sense of community and normalcy for displaced children.

The family's humanitarian work was profoundly influenced by the internment and death of Horace's father, Sir Elly Kadoorie, during the war. Sir Elly was interned by the Imperial Japan military forces in the Stanley Internment Camp (赤柱拘留營) in Hong Kong from December 1941 to 1943, then transferred to Shanghai, where he died on 8 February 1944 while under house arrest. This personal tragedy motivated Horace and his brother Lawrence to intensify their support for the refugees, viewing it as a continuation of the family's Jewish philanthropic tradition. Following Imperial Japan's surrender in 1945, Horace and Lawrence continued their aid efforts, focusing on the resettlement of displaced Jews amid China's political upheaval. They facilitated the relocation of many refugees to Hong Kong, Israel, and other destinations as the Communist victory in 1949 forced the closure of Jewish institutions in Shanghai. The Kadoorie School operated as a refuge until 1949, after which its legacy shaped Horace's enduring commitment to Jewish causes.



Shanghai Jewish School on Seymour Road (西摩路), designed by C. H. Gonda and built in 1931, on the southeast corner of today's North Shaanxi Road (陝西北路) and Xinzha Road (新開路).



Former residence of the Shanghai Ghetto for Jewish refugees

Agricultural development in Hong Kong

In the aftermath of World War II, Horace Kadoorie, alongside his brother Lawrence, co-founded the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) in 1951 to support over 300,000 poverty-stricken refugees and farmers in Hong Kong's New Territories, many of whom had fled the Chinese mainland and struggled with urban squalor. The initiative emphasized self-reliance through modern agricultural training, providing loans, seeds, and expertise to help recipients establish sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, distinct from earlier wartime refugee efforts.

A pivotal element of the KAAA's work was the establishment of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in 1956 at Pak Ngau Shek (白牛石) near Tai Mo Shan (大帽山) in Tai Po (大埔), serving as a demonstration and training center for advanced farming techniques such as crop rotation, soil conservation, and animal husbandry. Inspired by Horace's discovery of a lone, thriving tangerine tree amid barren hills---symbolizing the potential for agricultural revival in degraded land---the 150-hectare site became a hub for educating thousands of trainees annually, promoting self-sufficiency and environmental stewardship.

From the 1960s through the 1980s, the KAAA extended its programs to assist Nepalese Gurkha soldiers stationed in Hong Kong, offering agricultural skills training to facilitate their reintegration into civilian life upon return to Nepal, in partnership with organizations like the Gurkha Welfare Trust. These efforts included on-site workshops and follow-up support in Nepal, enabling participants to adopt improved farming methods for food security and economic stability.

Over decades, the KAAA's initiatives transformed rural Hong Kong by enabling thousands of individuals to shift from urban poverty to independent farming, fostering community development through related agricultural societies that supported ancillary services like small clinics and educational outreach. Horace's personal enthusiasm for horticulture, rooted in his self-described identity as a "farmer and horticulturalist", drove these projects, blending philanthropy with hands-on innovation to address post-War agrarian challenges.



Bronze statue of Sir Horace Kadoorie in the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden





*1950s -- Horace Kadoorie gifted a cow to a woman farmer
-- a total of 3,367 cows had been donated by Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association*



*1950s -- Horace Kadoorie (L2) accompanies Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander Grantham (L3)
to inspect pig husbandry conditions.*



Horace Kadoorie demonstrates the use of a thresher to the villagers



Terraced vegetable beds in the Kadoorie Farm

Private Interests and Family Ties

Horace Kadoorie never married and lived as a bachelor throughout his life. He had no children or immediate heirs, directing his fortune upon his passing to the Sir Horace Kadoorie International Foundation (賀理士嘉道理爵士國際基金) to continue family philanthropic traditions.

His deepest personal tie was with his older brother, Sir Lawrence Kadoorie (Baron Kadoorie since 1981), with whom he formed an inseparable partnership, sharing homes, a single bank account, and key life decisions in post-War Hong Kong. This fraternal bond endured until Lawrence's death in 1993, after which Horace continued their joint legacy alone. Their collaboration extended beyond business into a profound familial unity, reflecting the Kadoorie family's emphasis on mutual support.

Horace pursued personal interests in gardening, farming, and horticulture, passions that aligned with his lifelong aspiration to work the land. He found great satisfaction in these pursuits, particularly through hands-on involvement in rural projects that brought him close to nature and local communities. Known as "Mr. New Territories" for his dedication to Hong Kong's rural people and with a keen interest in horticulture and agriculture, Horace could often be found working hand-in-hand with rural farmers. He also served on the government's Rural Development Committee in the 1950s and 1960s.

Born into a Baghdadi Jewish family, Horace observed his faith through active community involvement, supporting Jewish welfare initiatives and maintaining ties to Hong Kong's Jewish institutions. Despite immense wealth, he led a modest, low-profile lifestyle focused on quiet family pursuits and rural engagements in the New Territories, earning affection from locals for his unassuming demeanor.

In his later years, Horace entered semi-retirement during the 1980s but remained actively involved in overseeing family philanthropic initiatives, particularly agricultural projects.

Rotarian Sir Horace Kadoorie died from Parkinson's disease at his home in Hong Kong on 22 April 1995 at the age of 92. He was buried in the Jewish Cemetery (猶太墳場) located at Happy Valley (跑馬地).

Honours and Commemoration

Sir Horace Kadoorie received numerous honors for his philanthropic and public service contributions. In 1962, he and his brother Lawrence were jointly awarded the [Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service] by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, recognizing their practical compassion toward underprivileged groups in Asia (*read the citation on Pages 16-17*). Some other remarkable honours received by Horace were:

- (1) 1939 -- Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur conferred by President Albert Lebrun of the French Republic
- (2) 1966 -- Officier de l'Ordre de Léopold conferred by King Baudouin, Kingdom of Belgium

- (3) June 1976 – Appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom
- (4) 1981 – Conferred Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*, by the University of Hong Kong (*read the full citation on Page 13-15*)
- (5) 1989 – Decorated Gorkha Dakshin Bahu First Class by King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah, Kingdom of Nepal
- (6) June 1989 – Invested Knight Bachelor by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom

Horace Kadoorie's legacy endures through the family foundations he helped establish, such as the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association, which continue to support education, agriculture, and welfare in Hong Kong and beyond. Tributes following his death highlighted his profound impact on the Colony's Jewish community and agricultural development, with leaders praising his generosity and vision. Upon the passing of both Kadoorie brothers, control of the family businesses passed to their nephew, Michael Kadoorie, who has carried forward the dynasty's enterprises.

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香 港 大 學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

112th Congregation 1981

Horace Kadoorie

Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

CITATION

Mr. Chancellor, I have the honour to present Horace Kadoorie for the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

The Kadoorie family has been prominent in the affairs of Hong Kong, Macau and Shanghai for over one hundred years. Their philanthropy has found expression in the form of hospitals, schools and agricultural colleges built in Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, India and Nepal as well as cities along the China coast. The family is thus internationally known.

But being a Kadoorie presents problems of identity for outsiders in general and Public Orators in particular. As a student at Sir Ellis Kadoorie School in Shanghai who really should have known better, I had, for quite a few years, thought that Sir Elly, the father of our graduand, was Sir Ellis with his name misspelt. Upon arriving in Hong Kong in 1947 I again found it difficult to differentiate between the two brothers of the second generation. Horace is, of course, the quiet one. But in their community service and philanthropic activities the brothers have worked with a single mind. Indeed, when Sir Lawrence Kadoorie was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1961, the then Public Orator found it necessary to mention Horace no less than five times. This gave the impression that the University was getting two for the price of one.

Horace Kadoorie was born in London on September 28, 1902 and was educated at Cathedral School, Shanghai, Ascham St. Vincents, Eastbourne, and Clifton College, Bristol. Joining his father's business in Shanghai, he followed the family tradition of practical philanthropy. He was for many years President of the Jewish School which was regarded as the best in Shanghai. It was in Shanghai that he formed a committee to care for the needs of 20,000 refugees who arrived from Central Europe and learned how to help refugees on a grand scale. This experience was to serve him well in Hong Kong in the early 1950s.

In the years immediately following the Second World War, many New Territories farmers and the majority of the refugees that crowded into Hong Kong were destitute - they possessed no capital or savings to either commence or carry on their livelihood of working the land. Having lost all they had during the war, the Kadoories were well aware of the problem. They had been blessed in having friends and a reputation which enabled them to make a new start. Their success became an obligation to help the less fortunate and friendless. Their concern led to the formation of the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association on September 28, 1951 - a fitting forty-ninth birthday celebration for one to whom helping his fellow men has become an obsession.

The aim of the Association has been to provide assistance, encouragement and a mental outlook which enables the recipient to take advantage of the fruit of his labour. The activities of the Association are now divided into three main channels: (1) Gifts in kind; (2) Free or low interest loans through the Loan Fund established under the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund Ordinance of 1955; and (3) Technical assistance through the Experimental and Extension Farm. Gifts in kind have been backed by substantial grants to enable the building of roads and paths, irrigation channels and wells, retaining walls and bridges and a whole host of other constructions vital to the prosperity and progress of villages. Besides improving public facilities, these projects have given villagers the pride and satisfaction of jobs completed through community effort and cooperation. Gifts to individuals have ranged from cows and pigs, ducks and chickens, to raincoats and artificial limbs.

Mr. Chancellor, because the Kadoorie brothers have always shared the same bank account, there has been a rumour that there is a friendly competition to see if brother Horace can give away as much money from the account as brother Lawrence puts into it. This is quite untrue. Horace Kadoorie is a successful businessman in his own right. In his spare time, he is chairman or director of at least fifteen important companies. The fact is he just thinks that it is more fun helping those less fortunate than he is. And what great fun he has had! Since 1951 over 300,000 people in over 1,200 villages have benefited from his activities. Through the Experimental Farm new strains of pigs, chickens and ducks have been introduced to the New Territories and even far away Nepal. Since 1968, over 3,000 Gurkhas have been trained in farming and animal husbandry. It is no doubt possible to put a price on the gifts and come to a sum of many, many millions of dollars. But this has never been done. Besides, how can one determine the dollar value of restored pride and self-respect, renewed hope and happiness? Maimonides, the twelfth century philosopher and teacher preached that “the highest degree of charity is to aid a man in want by entering into partnership with him, or by providing work for him, so that he may become self-supporting”. Horace Kadoorie has taken this advice quite literally. He has regarded each act of aid as a partnership with the recipient. He claims that the success of his programme is due to the nature of the aid given. I am of the opinion that it is really due to his unique personal approach. He has been known to give a cow to a widow for the sole purpose of restoring her social status in her family. His daily visits to his partners have given them a measure of encouragement that no amount of material aid can do on its own. He has arisen at 3 am on a Saturday morning to attend to the sick chickens of one of his partners. He has had the pleasure of watching a partner sharing a Coca-Cola with his cow. His Charity has not been in the accepted sense of the word but in the true sense. Mr. Chancellor, Horace Kadoorie has received numerous honours and awards. To name but two of them: he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1962 for practical philanthropy to promote rural welfare; he was honoured by Her Majesty with the CBE in 1976 for his public service. For being a social scientist of the highest order, the University would now like to honour him and I call upon Your Excellency to confer upon Horace Kadoorie in absentia the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Arnold Hsieh Chia-Loh (謝嘉樂教授), the Public Orator of the University.





RAMON MAGSAYSAY
AWARD FOUNDATION

1962 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service

CITATION



Horace Kadoorie

Seeking refuge in the Colony of Hong Kong following political change on the China mainland in 1949 were many farmers, farm laborers and older folk unable to compete in urban work. For them LAWRENCE and HORACE KADOORIE were the initiators and benefactors of an effective scheme of rehabilitation. These refugees were a special problem. They urgently needed capital or loan money to acquire land or stock which would enable them to make a living in the only way they knew, and the Colony needed more food.

The KADOORIE brothers consulted with Government and a venture in agricultural extension was decided upon for which they would provide financing and official agencies the technical knowledge and facilities. To this end, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association was established in September 1951.

Since then, the KADOORIE brothers have contributed the equivalent of more than two million eight hundred thousand U.S. dollars to this experiment plus their own time and quiet encouragement. This provided the means for making productive some 75,000 rural families in the New Territories of the Colony of Hong Kong.

Assistance is distinctive in being practical, prompt and flexible, and in sufficient amounts to be effective. The Association began by giving new settlements of refugees enough stock to establish them as pig or chicken raisers and interest-free loans enabling them to erect their own simple sties and buy feed. Later loans permitted construction of small irrigation systems for growing vegetables. A second livestock plan was built around poor widows in the New Territories. Villagers have been helped to use modern agricultural aids.

Cement and other construction materials were distributed for building access roads and other local public works. Almost every phase of farming in the Colony has benefited.

Jointly with Government, the brothers established, in August 1955, the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid (Loan) Fund, each party contributing an equal amount and Government later quadrupling its share. Interest-free loans are made for all productive farm purposes. With few exceptions borrowers have repaid on time and in full.

This cooperation has enabled government specialists to achieve an exceptional effectiveness in helping refugees and poor farmers in the Colony become self-supporting producers. The results are evident in a marked increase in food for the burgeoning population. Equally vital is the new sense of self-reliance among those rural families given the opportunity to stand on their own in the community.

In electing LAWRENCE and HORACE KADOORIE to receive the 1962 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, the Board of Trustees recognizes their practical philanthropy working in partnership with Government and struggling cultivators to promote rural welfare in the Colony of Hong Kong.

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The Ramon Magsaysay Award (Filipino: Gawad Ramon Magsaysay) is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society. The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government. It is often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia".

The award recognizes and honors individuals and organizations in Asia regardless of race, creed, sex, or nationality, who have achieved distinction in their respective fields and have helped others generously without anticipating public recognition.

The awards used to be given in six categories, five of which were discontinued in 2009:

- Government Service (1958–2008)
- Public Service (1958–2008)
- Community Leadership (1958–2008)
- Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts (1958–2008)
- Peace and International Understanding (1958–2008)
- Emergent Leadership (since 2001)