

DOCTOR OF LETTERS

honoris causa

Dr Helmut SOHMEN

CITATION

Mr Chancellor,

It is a long way from Upper Austria, and the iron and steel producing town of Linz, the hometown of Dr Helmut SOHMEN, whom we honour here today. But to Dr Sohmen, who describes himself as “an Austrian national but a citizen of the world”, physical distance is irrelevant. His career and other interests have taken him to many parts of the world, and this experience has given him an unrivalled global perspective on matters within his purview.

He studied law at the University of Vienna, and, as a Fulbright Scholar, political science at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. After taking his doctorate in Law in Vienna, he returned to the United States, where he graduated Master of Comparative Law from Southern Methodist University in Texas, and Master of Laws from Northwestern University.

He subsequently moved to Montreal, where he became the first in-house legal adviser to the international division of the Royal Bank of Canada, and was involved in projects as diverse as the establishment of the Monetary Authority of the Bahamas as well as the incorporation of local branches of the Royal Bank in Central and South America.

Despite the allure of a career with the Royal Bank, Dr Sohmen acceded to the request of his father-in-law, the legendary Y. K. Pao, to move to Hong Kong and join the family shipping business. In 1970, he became Director of World-Wide Shipping, one of the world's largest privately owned bulk fleets. From 1974 to 1986, he supervised the group's Bermuda, London and New York activities. In 1986, he took over as chairman of the shipping side of Y. K. Pao's corporate empire. He also took on the Managing Directorship of Dragonair, which he led in the difficult start-up years, until 1989, when his family's shareholding in the airline was sold.

Dr Sohmen has been widely involved in industry and community affairs in Hong Kong. He was instrumental in raising funds for the establishment of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, of which he became Deputy Chairman on its inauguration. In 1984, he was elected a Director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and currently serves the bank as non-executive Deputy Chairman.

Dr Sohmen was Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners' Association from 1987 to 1989, and as the Association's representative, he served on the Basic Law Consultative Committee from 1985 to 1990. From 1989

榮譽文學博士

蘇海文博士

之讚辭

監督先生：

今天我們要表彰蘇海文博士，雖然他的家鄉在萬里之遙的奧地利林茲，那是一個出產鋼鐵的市鎮；但對他來說，空間上的分隔並無意義。他形容自己為“一位持奧地利護照的世界公民”。蘇海文博士曾在世界多個地方工作和經營業務，這些寶貴經驗使他對其週遭的事物產生一套獨到的世界觀。

蘇海文博士早年於奧地利維也納大學修讀法律，期間，他取得富爾布賴特獎學金，到美國康涅狄格州偉斯利大學修讀政治學。在取得維也納大學的法學學位後，蘇海文博士再返回美國，取得德克薩斯州南方循道會大學比較法律學碩士及西北大學法學碩士學位。

後來他移居加拿大蒙特利爾，在當地獲聘為加拿大皇家銀行國際業務部首位公司內部法律顧問，並參與多項工作計劃，例如成立巴哈馬群島金融管理局及在中美洲和南美洲成立皇家銀行的分行。

雖然在皇家銀行工作的前途是一片光明，蘇海文博士還是接納了他的岳父——鼎鼎大名的包玉剛先生——的邀請，來香港加入包氏家族的船務企業。他在1970年成為環球航運集團董事，掌管一支全球最龐大的私營船隊；1974-86年主管集團在百慕達、倫敦和紐約等地的業務；1986年接掌包玉剛企業集團的航運業務。他並且於港龍航空成立早期的艱辛創業年代，出任該公司董事總經理，直至家族集團於1989年出售港龍航空股份。

蘇海文博士積極參與本港的工商業及社會事務。他是香港國際仲裁中心副主席，曾對籌務經費成立該中心作出很大貢獻；他在1984年當選為香港上海匯豐銀行董事；現時為該銀行非執行副主席。

蘇海文博士在1987-89年間，出任香港船東協會主席；1985-90年，他以協會代表身份，加入基本法諮詢委員會；1989-91年出任最受本港商界敬重的香港總商

to 1991, he was Chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, the most prestigious post in the Hong Kong business world, and President of the Baltic and International Maritime Council, the world's largest international shipping organisation, of which he remains Honorary President.

In 1985, Dr Sohmen was appointed to the Legislative Council, and in the same year became a member of the erstwhile Securities Commission and of the Economic Review Committee. Other senior appointments have included membership of the Civil Aviation Advisory Board, the Port Committee, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the General Committee of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, and chairmanship of the ICAC Review Committee and the Hong Kong Member Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.

Dr Sohmen has taken an active part in the academic and cultural development of Hong Kong. For some eight years, he has been involved with the Hong Kong Arts Centre and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. It was under his chairmanship, indeed, that the APA became an accredited tertiary institution. He is a founding member of our University Court and is a member of the Court of the University of Hong Kong. Indeed, his association with our University dates back to 1991, when he became a member of the President's Advisory Board. Currently, he is Convenor of our Art and Culture Task Force, leading a small group to give advice on how to develop our campus into a more genteel and more cultural environment for the University community.

Dr Sohmen is also a member of the Steering Committee of the HKUST Europe Institute, to be established on campus. This will be a technology and management-based umbrella organisation, to coordinate and facilitate cooperation with European partners, and provide footholds for European entities seeking to establish a presence in Hong Kong—in particular, in areas of applied research and development, services, and technology-based manufacturing.

Dr Sohmen has hosted, almost quarterly starting from 1993, a distinguished group of business leaders, government officials and diplomats, as well as faculty members of HKUST, over the HKUST Business Roundtable Dinner.

Dr Sohmen established the Egon-Sohmen-Foundation, in memory of his brother, for the examination of economic policy issues; and the Sohmen Foundation, which sponsors literary, academic and cultural endeavours around the world. Through the Sohmen Foundation, he established the Sohmen Foundation Austria Summer Program Award at HKUST in June 1997 to support students taking part in a summer programme organised by the University of Vienna.

會主席；同期他擔任全球最大的國際船務組織波羅的海及國際海事議會 (Baltic and International Maritime Council) 的總裁；現為該組織榮譽總裁。

蘇海文博士在1985年獲委任為立法局議員，同年又成為當時的證券委員會委員及經濟檢討委員會成員。此外，他還獲委出任多個高層職位，包括民航諮詢委員會、港口諮詢委員會、香港貿易發展局及香港工業總會常務委員會等機構的成員；並出任廉政公署審查委員會主席及太平洋地區經濟理事會副主席。

蘇海文博士積極推動本港學術及文化事業。他致力於香港藝術中心及香港演藝學院的發展已達八年。香港演藝學院更在他領導下，得以發展為政府認可專上學院。他是香港大學顧問委員會委員及本校大學顧問委員會之創會委員。早於1991年，他與本校已建立密切聯繫，成為校長顧問委員會成員；現時他還出任本校藝術及文化工作小組會議召集人，帶領該工作小組研究如何把校園環境變得更溫雅、更具文化氣息。

蘇海文博士也是本校即將成立的“歐洲研究所”指導委員會成員，這研究所將會是一個以技術和管理為基礎的中心組織，其成立目的是協調及促進與歐洲各國的合作，並為有意在港發展的機構（尤其是那些對發展應用研究與開發、服務行業及高科技製造業等領域有興趣的機構）提供立足點。

蘇海文博士自1993年起，幾乎每季都主持香港科技大學圓桌晚宴。出席晚宴的人士包括商界傑出領袖、政府官員、外交官及科大教員。

蘇海文博士成立以紀念其兄長的Egon-Sohmen基金，該基金資助有關經濟政策的研究。他還成立蘇海文基金 (Sohmen Foundation)，贊助世界各地為文學、學術及文化貢獻的人士。本年6月，更透過這個基金，在本校成立蘇海文基金奧地利暑期活動獎 (Sohmen Foundation Austria Summer Program Award)，資助本校學生參加一項維也納大學舉辦的暑期活動。

蘇海文博士和他的祖家仍然緊緊相連。他在1991年擔任香港奧地利協會 (Hong Kong Austrian Association) 創會主席，以及維也納的奧地利總理國

Dr Sohmen has not lost contact with his roots. In 1991, he became founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Austrian Association in Hong Kong and a member of the Austrian Chancellor's International Advisory Group, as well as Honorary Chairman of the Austro-Chinese Friendship Society in Vienna. In 1995, he was nominated by the Austrian Foreign Minister to the ASEAN-EU Eminent Persons Group. He also established the Sohmen-Far East-Foundation for promoting awareness of East Asia among young Austrian managers; and the Sohmen-China-Foundation to support bilateral ties between Austria and China.

Mr Chancellor,

I have the honour to present, on behalf of the University, Dr Helmut Sohmen, Knight Grand Commander of the Humane Order of African Redemption (Liberia), Commander of the National Order Nuñez de Balboa (Panama), Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (United Kingdom), Grand Badge of Honour in Silver (Austria), citizen of the world, for the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa.

際顧問委員會 (Austrian Chancellor's International Advisory Group) 成員及奧中友好協會 (Austro-Chinese Friendship Society) 榮譽主席；1995年獲奧地利外交部長推薦加入亞太歐盟卓越人士組織 (ASEAN-EU Eminent Persons Group)。他成立蘇海文遠東基金 (Sohmen-Far East-Foundation)，推動奧地利的年輕管理階層關注遠東的發展情況；另外又成立蘇海文中國基金 (Sohmen-China-Foundation)，資助奧中雙邊聯繫。

監督先生，蘇海文博士曾獲多個國家頒贈榮譽勳章，包括利比里亞 Knight Grand Commander of the Humane Order of African Redemption、巴拿馬 Commander of the National Order Nuñez de Balboa、英國英帝國官佐勳章 (OBE) 及奧地利 Grand Badge of Honour in Silver，確是一位實至名歸的世界公民。本人謹恭請監督閣下頒授榮譽文學博士學位予蘇海文博士。