Doctor of Business Administration honoris causa
Mr Larry YUNG Chi Kin
Citation

When we look at the achievements of a successful businessman, one often hears the comment: “He was in the right place at the right time.” Sometimes the remark even comes with a hint of “sour-grapes.” Mr Larry YUNG Chi Kin, whom we honour today, is a person who did not happen to be in the right place at the right time. Mr Yung has the genius of a visionary and the courage of a pioneer and adventurer. He creates the right place and the right time to make his endeavours all successes. He turns adversities into opportunities, others’ demise into triumph, and navigates uncharted waters.

Mr Yung, whose family originates from Wuxi in Jiangsu Province, was born in Shanghai into a family that owned the most reputable business in textiles and flour in China. After graduating from Shanghai Nan Yang Model Middle School, Mr Yung entered the University of Tianjin and majored in electrical engineering. One might say that he graduated at the wrong time—1965—for the Cultural Revolution soon robbed him of any opportunity to take advantage of the engineering education he had just received. He was exiled to work at various power stations in Yunfeng in the northeast of China and Liangshan in Sichuan Province. This was a time of toughening the body and the will, according to Mr Yung. In 1972, he returned to Beijing to engage in research at the Electrical Science Laboratory.

In June 1978, Mr Yung came to Hong Kong to develop his own business and so began his journey of success. Elcap Electronics Limited was incorporated and launched in Tai Po, with Mr Yung at the helm as the general manager. The Elcap integrated-circuit production line soon went into operation. These were the early days of Hong Kong’s microelectronics industry. It was not long before Mr Yung, the visionary electrical engineer cum businessman, ventured into uncharted waters, investing in the United States and founding the California Automatic Design Company. In 1984, the California company merged with Mentor Graphics Company to become the first listed Computer Aided Design (CAD) company in America.

Mr Yung’s vision reached far beyond the microelectronics industry. He foresaw that the prosperity of Hong Kong demanded an effective infrastructure, an efficient transpor-
tation system and a healthy property market. CITIC (Hong Kong) and subsequently CITIC Hong Kong (Holdings) were born, with Mr. Yung as the latter’s vice chairman and managing director. With a capital of HK$240 million, Mr. Yung mapped out the company’s investment strategy in Hong Kong’s transportation system, first in the Hong Kong Eastern Harbour Crossing and the subsequent acquisition of a 12% interest in Cathay Pacific Airways by successfully raising HK$2.3 billion. The acquisition immediately attracted a great deal of attention in the Hong Kong market, and marked the beginning of a whole string of acquisitions of companies.

Competition in the airline business is merciless. In 1990, Dragonair found itself operating at a loss. Mr. Yung, at the invitation of some of Dragonair’s shareholders, acquired a 46% interest in the failing company. He further engaged the participation of Swire Pacific and Cathay Pacific in revitalizing Dragonair, in exchange for the operating rights from Hong Kong to Beijing and Shanghai. Cathay Pacific and CITIC Hong Kong (Holdings) jointly took over the management of Dragonair, and within two months, turned the airline into a profitable business. In the same year, at a cost of HK$10 billion, Mr. Yung acquired a 20% stake in Hongkong Telecom when the price of its shares was at its lowest. The debt financing for this acquisition was selected by the International Financial Review as the most outstanding financing deal of that year.

CITIC Hong Kong (Holdings) continued its series of acquisitions, acquiring a 49% interest in Tylfull Company Limited, a listed company that owned investment properties, and renamed it CITIC Pacific, making it the main operating arm of CITIC Hong Kong (Holdings). In 1991, CITIC Pacific led a consortium to acquire Dah Chong Hong, a prominent trading company with interests in imports and exports, distribution of motor vehicles, electrical appliances, foodstuffs, cosmetics, building materials and engineering. This was followed by taking a 50% stake in Hong Kong Resort Company Limited, a company which owned the development rights of Discovery Bay on Lantau Island.

All these enterprising ventures have not made Mr. Yung forget his roots in electrical engineering, nor his native home in Wuxi. In 1997, CITIC Pacific took a 20% interest in China Light and Power and invested in power stations in the Mainland. Mr. Yung’s ventures extended to numerous engineering projects: roads, bridges and tunnels in Shanghai, the Chang Jiang LJT Bridge in Chongqing, highways and industrial projects in Wuxi, telecommunications in Macau, the Hong Kong Western Harbour Crossing, environmental
projects in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals and others. Under the leadership of Mr Yung, CITIC Pacific has become a giant conglomerate in Hong Kong with its main interests in infrastructure development, aviation, property, trading and distribution.

Mr Yung, an engineer-turned-businessman, is well known for his scientific approach to the management of his business. He has the interests of Hong Kong at heart, insisting that CITIC should recruit local talent, which is good news for today’s graduands. His support for education follows his family tradition. The Rong Yiren Education Foundation at Jiangnan University was named after his father, a former vice-president of China. Another education foundation was for the Faculty of Law at Tsinghua University. Financial assistance was offered to graduate students from China studying at Stanford University through an education foundation established in 1993. The Yung Chi Kin Education Foundation at Tianjin University was established to enable faculty and students of his alma mater to pursue further studies abroad. He has also been an honorary professor at Tianjin University since 1997.

Mr Yung’s talents and achievements have been well recognized by governments. He was a member of the Hong Kong Governor’s Business Council from 1994 to 1997. He has been appointed as a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference for three successive terms from 1988 to 2002. Despite his busy schedule of activities, Mr Yung still finds the time for golf, horse-racing and hunting. He was the first Chinese to be elected president of the Hong Kong Golf Club. He was elected a member of the Stewards of the Hong Kong Jockey Club in 1994. His interest in sports dates back to his youth, when in 1959 he won the award of top-grade national baseball player. In whatever he chooses to do, he gives it his whole-hearted devotion and aims for nothing less than total excellence. This is what it takes to turn his vision into reality, his adventures into brilliant accomplishments. Engineering and business graduates today would do well to take Mr Yung as a role-model.

Mr Chancellor, I have the honour to present, on behalf of the University, Mr Larry Yung Chi Kin, Chairman of CITIC Pacific, for the degree of Doctor of Business Administration honoris causa.

教育基金。榮智健是前國家副主席。他又在清華大學法律系設立教育基金。1993年，他為赴史丹福大學深造的中國研究生設立教育基金，提供經濟援助。他在天津大學設立榮智健教育基金，協助母校師生出國深造。自1997年起，他受聘為天津大學名譽教授。


監督先生，本人謹恭請閣下，頒授榮譽工商管理學博士學位予中信泰富主席榮智健先生。