

The Honorable Dr CHA Chi-ming, GBM, JP

Citation

Being practical and realistic (*Qiu Shi*) are the key qualities of a successful entrepreneur. Many successful businessmen who emerged during the post-War period adhered to these principles as they built their organizations in Hong Kong and the region. The renowned entrepreneur we honor today, Dr CHA Chi-ming, has taken this business philosophy, the *Qiu Shi* spirit, a step further by helping his mother country build a solid foundation for the long-term development of science and technology.

The Cha family comes from Haining, Zhejiang. Dr Cha started his textile manufacturing career in Jiangsu and Sichuan, progressing to become a prominent Hong Kong industrialist, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He is the Chairman of CDW International Limited, HKR International Limited and former Chairman of The Mingly Corporation Limited.

In 1949, having established his textile-manufacturing career in China, Dr Cha set up China Dyeing Works Limited, a company vital to the expansion of Hong Kong's textile industry in its formative years. After 1980, he returned to China and established textile manufactories again in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. Furthermore, Dr Cha has extended his business interests into real-estate development and hotel investments.

Although based in Hong Kong, Dr Cha's business has a truly international perspective and spans three continents. Since the early 1960's he has been active in the African market, and is the founder of a number of textile market leaders

in West Africa. He also has textile industry investments in the United Kingdom and the United States. Together his businesses employ more than 25,000 people across the world. In view of his long and substantial contribution to the textile industry, Dr Cha was awarded the Companionship of the Textile Institute in 1993.

Dr Cha's flagship company is HKR International Limited, a company listed on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It is engaged in property development, transport and ferry operations, construction, hotels, serviced apartments, regional healthcare operations, and other strategic investments. The company is also the developer of the acclaimed Discovery Bay residential resort in Hong Kong.

In addition to his business interests, Dr Cha is a distinguished philanthropist and demonstrated his enthusiasm for scientific and technological advancement in China by donating US\$20 million to establish the *Qiu Shi* Science and Technologies Foundation in 1994. The *Qiu Shi* Foundation is highly respected and awards substantial prizes to Chinese scientists who have made significant advances in their fields. Over the past few years, Dr Cha has continued his philanthropic spirit by establishing many other charitable institutions in China.

Dr Cha devotes much of his time and attention to public service, particularly advising the Chinese government on the needs of the Hong Kong community. He was a member of the Basic Law Drafting Committee, the Preliminary

Working Committee as well as the Preparatory Committee for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and a Hong Kong Affairs Adviser. He was amongst the first awardees to receive Hong Kong's highest honor, the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 1997.

Dr Cha has also served as Director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and is a permanent member of the Advisory Board of the Yan Chai Hospital. He is an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration and an Honorary Doctor of Social Science.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you, on behalf of the University, The Honorable Dr Cha Chi-ming, Chairman of HKR International Limited and founder of the Qiu Shi Science and Technologies Foundation, for the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.