For many of us in Hong Kong, Christine Loh personifies a host of important causes, from democracy, freedom, and gender equality, to environmental protection, multiculturalism, human rights, and the rule of law. She has introduced to our city a variety of modern, post-modern and post-materialist values from the West. Over the years, she has fought to achieve a Hong Kong that is more just, more open, more democratic, more multidimensional and more beautiful. Above all, in whatever she does, Dr Loh spares no effort to promote these values.

She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Law from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, and her Master’s degree in Chinese and Comparative Law from the City University of Hong Kong. In 2001 she was also awarded an Honorary Doctor of Law from the University of Hull.

During her 14-year career in the business sector, Dr Loh rose to become the managing director and directors of multi-national corporations. While her ability to engage with society on a political level benefited greatly from her mix of professional training, business experience and extensive networks, it was her dedication to public affairs, her sophisticated manner of thinking and her nuanced analysis of public policy that really enabled her to shoot to public prominence in Hong Kong.

As early as the 1970s, when political awareness was generally low, Dr Loh became very active with the Hong Kong Observers, a group of like-minded individuals who would study and publicize their views on various public issues. As its chairperson from 1982 to 1984, Dr Loh was particularly vocal about the future of Hong Kong, and she urged her fellow citizens to speak up about the draft Basic Law as well as to fight for both a representative political system and an independent judiciary.

In 1992, Dr Loh began her brief but spectacular career as a politician when Governor Chris Patten appointed her to the Legislative Council. Who could forget the furore she caused up by championing and finally amending the New Territories Land (Exemption) Ordinance to give indigenous women equal rural land inheritance rights? Despite resistance from traditional rural bodies, despite vicious verbal attacks and even threats to her personal safety, Dr Loh pressed on with what she believed was the correct action. She succeeded, and the subsequent amendment to the Ordinance marked a significant step towards greater gender equality in Hong Kong.

Known as the “green conscience” of Hong Kong, Dr Loh has twice chaired Friends of the Earth. She is also a co-founder of the Society for Protection of the Harbour. She chaired the Legislative Council’s Panel on Environmental Affairs from 1995 to 1997 and again from 1998 to 2000. In 1997, she initiated a private bill to restrict excessive reclamation, which was finally enacted as the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance. As chairperson of the Society for Protection of the Harbour, Dr Loh continues to campaign for the protection and preservation of Victoria Harbour.

陸桂蕙博士
Dr Christine LOH Kung-Wai

對很多香港人來說，陸桂蕙象徵了民主自由、男女平等、環境保護、多元文化和人權法治。她把不少西方的現代、後現代以及後物質價值觀引進香港，並在不同領域持續推廣這些價值。無論身處何等崗位，多年來一直努力不懈，為打造一個更美麗、更公平、更民主、更開放、更多元的香港而奮鬥。

陸桂蕙博士任職商界14年，曾出任跨國公司董事及董事長等要職，主理中國地區貿易。陸博士分別擁有英國赫特福德大學文學學士學位及香港城市大學中國法與比較法學碩士學位，並於2001年獲英國赫特福德大學頒授榮譽法學博士學位。雖然如此，陸博士最為香港人所熟知的卻不是她在商界的成就和專業知識，而是她參與公共事務的熱忱。她的專業訓練、商界經驗及廣泛接觸面也正好讓她在參與社會事務時，得以從多角度思考問題，以及對公共政策有更立體的分析。為她的政治於建立了良好基礎。

早在七十年代，當香港人的政治參與意識還處於低潮時，陸博士便積極參與政壇，依據《基本法》的內容，促進香港社會議題，爭取香港市民的民主和自治權利。1992年，陸博士獲香港政府委任為立法局議員，正式開創了她短暫而輝煌的從政之路。在從政過程中，她積極倡議廢除新界婦女繼承權的爭議。當時她提出《新界土地(豁免)條例》草案，建議以法律保障新界婦女的合理繼承權。雖然當時香港婦女遊行示威，有人甚至對她進行人身攻擊，但她仍然據理力爭，最後得以成功通過，為香港婦女的平等權利踏出重要一步。

Her advocacy of human rights, democracy and open government by no means pales in comparison to her environmental protection work. In 1995 Dr Loh’s Access to Information bill forced the government to introduce its own Code of Access to Information, bringing the administrative machinery to a higher level of transparency.

Over the years, Dr Loh has striven to accelerate the democratization process in Hong Kong. Back in 1989 she was already lobbying the British Government to draft a human rights bill for Hong Kong and she even visited the United Nations to draw international attention to Hong Kong’s human rights situation. Later, Dr Loh would help found the Citizens Party, which she chaired until 2000.

Dr Loh’s decades-long public participation has earned her several honorary awards, including the Outstanding Young Persons Award in 1988 and Inclusion among Business Week’s "Stars of Asia" in 1998 and 2000. She has recently been awarded the Peter Brice Award in April 2004 in recognition of her achievements in fostering civic values and social responsibility.

In 1995 and 1998 she ran for and won a directly elected seat on the Legislative Council. However, by 2000 she felt increasingly frustrated by the constraints of the political system and sensed a severe deficiency in the area of public policy research. To surmount these shortcomings, Dr Loh set her eyes on the prerogatives enjoyed by the more mature political systems of the West and established a non-profit independent think tank, Civic Exchange. Civic Exchange aims to promote civic education and policy studies. During the past few years, despite a modest budget, Civic Exchange has published dozens of reports and established itself as a significant influence in the public policy sphere.

Although no longer on the political frontline, Dr Loh has continued to expand her interest base. Indeed we are fortunate that the education sector fell under her wider scrutiny because, since 1999, she has been an invaluable member of our own University Council.

Today, she remains a fervent writer and commentator on current affairs, and is also a committed campaigner for stronger public participation by non-government organizations. Let me quote some prose written during the Song Dynasty, which, roughly translated, advises: “When you are in the high temple of power, concern yourself with the people. When you are at the grassroots level, concern yourself with the ruler.” Dr Loh’s experience demonstrates how public and political participation should not be constrained by the position one holds. Hong Kong has come to a critical moment in the development of its political system. It requires political talents and policy research; it demands whole-hearted participation as well as cool-headed debate. Simply stated, Hong Kong needs more talent of Dr Loh’s caliber to work for that brighter future to which she aspires.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you, on behalf of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr Christine Loh, Chief Executive of Civic Exchange, for the award of Honorary Fellowship.


博士於1995年和1998年兩度參加立法局／立 法會地區直選，均成功獲選，直至2000年，有感於 當時政制對立法會議員選舉有限，才毅然宣布放棄參 選立法會，然而這絕對不代表她的社會參與就此终止。 她有感香港的公共政策研究嚴重缺乏，尤其是缺乏西 方成熟民主體系的獨立智庫機構，因此以極有限的預 算，創辦獨立的非牟利智庫“思匯政策研究所”，並 出任行政總裁至今。思匯政策研究所成立目標為推動 公民教育，及對公共政策進行研究，數年來已就不同 政策作出數十項研究報告，對政府政策有一定影響 力。

雖然不再在政壇的最前線，博士仍然積極地 有關撰文及發表演說，討論時局，並且鼓勵民間團體 的社會參與。中國的知識分子從來崇尚“居廟堂之 高，則憂其民；處江湖之遠，則憂其君”。博士的 經驗正好說明社會和政治參與從來不受地點所限。香 港正值政制發展的關鍵時刻，對參與政治的人才、公 共政策的研究、社會事務的投入參與和理性討論，都 有迫切的需求。香港正需要更多像博士這樣的政 治人才，為香港的未來作出貢獻。

副監督先生，本人很榮幸能夠代表香港科技大 學，恭請閣下頒授大學學會會士榮銜於香港思匯政策 研究所行政總裁陸惠博士。