By training, Dr Chan Man-Hung is a historian. By profession, he is the Vice Chairman and President of Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Limited. In conversations with Dr Chan, though, it is often difficult to tell when he is speaking as a historian or as a corporate chief. Dr Chan belongs to that rare breed of industry leaders whose strategic business thinking is laced with a strong dose of social crusading passion. He has the heart of a historian beating in the chest of a businessman.

A prolific writer, Dr Chan’s writings cover various facets of Chinese history, from cultural development to architectural studies. No ivory tower pedant, he has kept pace with the march of technology. Since the 1990’s his electronic publications have run the gamut of an online Chinese dictionary, stamp collection in Hong Kong, and more importantly, the mammoth project of building a Chinese language database. In the field of Chinese electronic publications, Dr Chan is an acknowledged trail-blazing leader.

He has braided his twin roles as a cultural advocate and publishing innovator into a clear mission for the preservation and promotion of Chinese culture and studies. The projects he pursues, one is left in no doubt, do not issue from selfish ambitions, but from a passionate respect for China’s history and culture and an equally passionate desire to share it.

He attributes his zeal to New Asia College, a constituent college of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he received rigorous intellectual training as a historian. From the high intellectual purpose that was then synonymous with his alma mater, he developed a breadth of vision, and a longitudinal interest in the flow of Chinese history. His talk often oozes with a sense of the past and its meaning for the present and future. In his view, the historical development of modern China is in no small part linked to the publishing industry and the growing access to books. Against this background, Commercial Press, a subsidiary of the parent company he now heads, loomed large in its role in modern China’s development.

Dr Chan is an ardent believer when it comes to continuing the historic role of Commercial Press in the promotion and dissemination of knowledge in Chinese society. His operational decisions are not always friendly to the bottomline, often putting cultural considerations ahead of hard-headed business interests. Many bookstores in Hong Kong have an entrenched practice of maximizing their retail space for stationery at the expense of books, given the bigger profit margins of the former. Going against this grain, Dr Chan insists that the 400 bookstores under his stewardship retain a minimum of 70% of physical space for books. To him, bookstores are after all primarily the retailer of books, and not the retailer of stationery or other paraphernalia of the book industry.

Dr Chan has two doctorates in history, one from the University of Hiroshima and another from the University of Hong Kong. His sojourn in Japan was an eye-opening experience. The Japanese have an enduring reverence for their own history and culture. Japan then was at the peak of its power. To Dr Chan, its spectacular "陳萬雄博士 Dr CHAN Man-Hung 獎譽大學院士 Honorary Fellow of HKUST"
post-war prosperity is inseparable from its flourishing book publishing industry. Significantly, 20% of Japanese household income goes to the buying of books, with nearly 50% of passengers on public transportation engrossed in book-reading. After joining the publishing industry, Dr Chan was seized by an epiphany when he attended the world's largest annual book fair in Frankfurt, the unchallenged mecca for the world's publishers. Japanese presence in the book fair was jaw-droppingly big. Its exhibition stalls took up two full "streets". Chinese publishers, by contrast, could only muster a pathetic sprinkling of booths. The power and influence of a nation was eloquently reflected in the importance it attached to books. Dr Chan saw China's fate tied to the future of its publishing industry.

Back in Hong Kong, Dr Chan was busy reforming and modernizing the book retail business, pumping $20 million into a digital systems control for his bookstore operations. Commercial Press under his leadership also became the first to venture into Hong Kong's satellite towns in lock step with its urban sprawl. Prior to this, book store operators had characteristically shunned malls or arcades in suburban areas, sticking with safe upscale urban locations. He is also the first to give dullest bookstores a new, snazzy look, setting the same high standards in décor and decoration regardless of a bookstore's neighborhood.

Looking to the future, he foresees Hong Kong's need for specialty books. He asks rhetorically why in a mature society legal knowledge should be left exclusively and entirely in the hands of lawyers. Information is power, and Dr Chan is eager to empower the consumers in our community.

Ever the crusader, he wonders why Hong Kong is still denied its own book city or book district. He bemoans its prohibitive land prices and the exorbitant rents that together put a super-size bookstore or book zone economically out of reach.

In 2003, Dr Chan was awarded the Hong Kong Printer's Grand Prize. He was also the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award in the publishing industry. He has sat on numerous committees including the Hong Kong Strategic Development Commission, plus chairmanship of the Hong Kong Publishing Professionals and membership of the Creative Industries section of the Hong Kong Government's Central Policy Unit. Among many public service appointments, Dr Chan is now an Honorary Adviser (Education) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. He is a member of the Advisory Committee on Chinese and Bilingual Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the Advisory Board of Lingnan University's Department of Chinese, Chairman of the Hong Kong Publishing Federation and Committee Member of the Institute of Print-media Professionals. But the highest honor for this tireless crusader for culture would be the realization of his dream that Hong Kong becomes a book-loving society to rival that of Japan. Books are the lifeblood of universities. It is fittingly proper that we honor today a persevering promoter of the book culture in our community.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you, on behalf of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr Chan Man-Hung, Vice Chairman and President of Sino United Publishing (Holdings) Limited, for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

業務開始。」進行書店現代化，從店面的裝修，設計到 店員的制服，一律「現代化」，把傳統書店破舊、 窮陋、侷促的面貌，煥然一新。店內開闢的空氣調節， 不僅為顧客帶來舒服，更重要是把經營概念，放在消費 者身上，以消費者為重。陳萬雄博士表示，「更大的 一步，是我們到新市鎮開門店；進駐屯門和沙田等 商場。」「我相信，要推廣銷售，推廣文化，就要到人 群之中去。」事後證明，陳萬雄博士的商業眼光，判斷 正確。如今在商場的書店，已成為讀者喜愛和購書的主 要地方。一九八六年，他繼承二百萬元，推動商務零 售採用國際最先進SAP電腦系統，並取得顯著的成效。 當時，二千萬元並不是個小數目，陳萬雄的「臨危一 躬」，的確考驗他的眼光。陳博士笑說：「當日所受到 壓力很大。」雖然壓力大，卻沒有把他嚇退。

陳萬雄博士表示，書香歷史的經驗，可展望未來； 從人類過去的生活，也可判斷未來的變化，知所進退。 紙張、印刷技術的出現，改變了人類的學習和傳播知識 的模式。十多年前出現的互聯網、電子郵件、數碼技 術，打破了印刷業的侷限。有見及此，他率先開始電子 書籍，並且籌辦中英文語言數據庫，推動了香港數碼電 子出版業。

陳萬雄博士亦熱心公共事務，他在推動兩岸三地出版 及文化事業上，不遺餘力，曾任公職包括香港出版學 會會長、香港特別行政區政府版權署副處長、中英文 教育出版事業主席、香港藝術發展局委員、香港康 樂及文化事務署博物館事務顧問（歷史）。現任的主要 公職為康樂及文化事務署榮譽顧問（教育）、香港理工 大學中文及雙語學系諮詢委員會主席、嶺南大學中文系 諮詢委員會主席、香港出版總會會長及印刷媒體專業人 員協會委員會成員。二零零三年，他獲選為香港出版 學會會士；二零零三年，榮獲香港印製大獎的傑出成就 大獎。

陳博士著作甚豐，主要著作包括《新文化運動前的 陳獨秀》、《五四新文化的淵源》、《歷史與文化穿繩》 及《中華民族新生的陣痛》。在出版上，他不斷開拓中文 出版界，策劃多套大型出版項目，如《故宮全集》、《 中國地域文化大系》、《中國本草圖錄》、《敦煌石窟 全集》、《中華文明傳真》。在電子出版上，他領導的聯 合電子出版有限公司，從九十年代早期迄今，出版了多 項叫好叫座的電子出版物，包括《紫禁城CD-I》、《漢語 大詞典》光盤、《香港郵票》光盤等。

陳萬雄博士在出版及文化界留下的足跡，遠遠維 迴，且還與步步向前，在多媒體的今天，不斷開闢新境 界；他熱烈期望有朝一日，香港能與日本看齊，令市民 都熱愛閱讀書本，追求知識。書本是大學教育的泉源。 今天就讓我們一起祝福這位多年來來傑而不敗推動香港出版 事業的專家傳承者。

副監督先生，本人謹代表香港科技大學，恭請閣下 頒授榮譽大學院士聯合出版（集團）有限公司副董事 長及總裁陳萬雄博士。