

Ms Ada Wong Ying-kay, JP

- Citation -

Ms Ada Wong Ying-kay, JP, was born and raised in Hong Kong, and graduated with a BA in Foreign Languages (French and German) at Pomona College in the early 1980s. This experience gave her the strong foundation in languages and the arts and in liberal arts education *per se* that made her the dynamic and perceptive person she is today. Initially her dream was to pursue a career as a journalist, but as the eldest child she entered the family business, and worked her way up from humble clerkly duties to a position of seniority. In the pursuit of her initial career goal she took a one-year conversion law course in London, and gained professional qualifications as a solicitor.

Upon her return to Hong Kong in the mid-'80s, Ms Wong practiced law as a solicitor and is a partner of the law firm, Philip K H Wong, Kennedy Y H Wong & Co. She was also China-appointed Attesting Officer and Civil Celebrant of Marriages. Feeling the call of public service, she became an elected member of the Urban Council in 1995, representing the constituency of Wanchai East until the Urban Council was abolished in 2000. She then became a District Councillor for Wanchai and subsequently its Council Chair in 2004, a position she held until the end of 2007, carrying out her duties with great distinction. During the same period, she managed to earn a master's degree in education at the University of Hong Kong with distinction; following this she continued doctoral studies in education at the same university. Amid her many roles in education and politics, she actively promotes the cause of the arts and culture, which is especially laudable in our sometimes excessively materialistic society of Hong Kong. Her present roles as a member of the consultation panel of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, the Council of the Academy for Performing Arts, the Board of Governors of Shue Yan University and the Steering Committee of the Review of Urban Renewal Strategy testify to her goals of establishing enlightened public policies for our city in vital areas such as tangible and intangible cultural heritage. She has deep interest in policy research, and the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture which she founded ten years ago has been seen as such a research and advocacy vehicle for change in cultural and creative education policy in Hong Kong. Ms Wong is certainly no yes-woman, as confirmed by her boldly expressed views that differ from those of government authority figures.

That said, Ms Wong has always been pragmatic, positive and flexible in her thinking, and these qualities complement very well her integrity, determination and resilience. Now free from party affiliation, she feels more comfortable in a non-aligned role in civil society where she can help to nurture a deeper commitment to, and a stronger foundation for, the arts and education in the SAR through her participation in advocacy groups as well as her journalistic work as chat show co-host for the RTHK, and as columnist for the Oriental Daily News and previously Ming Pao. Her current

position as Supervisor of the HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity in Junction Road, the first creativity-based secondary school of its kind in Hong Kong, is one that she takes very seriously. She cares deeply about the school and its students, and is extremely proud of their achievements. The innovative school offers a valuable potential link not only with professionally oriented tertiary institutions such as the Academy for Performing Arts, but also with Hong Kong's liberal arts university, Lingnan — all the more so since Ms Wong is an established friend of our University, having served as a former Council and Court member with great dedication.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of her outstanding work in many domains of public service in Hong Kong, may I now present Ms Ada Wong Ying-kay to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Written and delivered by Dr Michael Ingham

黃英琦女士 -贊辭-

黃英琦女士在香港出生及長大，一九八零年代初於波莫那學院取得外語（法文及德文）文學士，令她在語言、藝術以及博雅教育等方面打下穩健基礎，對她今日擁有的應變能力和敏銳觸角影響深遠。黃女士早年曾夢想成為一名記者，但作為家中長女，她參與了家族生意，由普通文職攀上管理層。在開展事業的初期，她負笈倫敦修讀一年制的轉讀法律課程，取得律師專業資格。

八十年代中期返港後，黃女士成為執業律師，出任黃乾亨黃英豪律師事務所合夥人，亦擔任中國委托公證人及婚姻監禮人。黃女士熱心公共服務，一九九五年參加市政局選舉，獲選為灣仔東區區議員，直至二零零零年市政局被廢除為止。其後她成為灣仔區區議員，並於二零零四年成為區議會主席，至二零零七年卸任。在任期間，黃女士不但表現卓越，更鼓餘力完成香港大學教育碩士學位課程，以優秀成績畢業，之後繼續於香港大學修讀教育博士課程。在教育界及政界身兼多職的同時，黃女士積極推動藝術及文化活動，在有時過份功利的都市氛圍中，尤堪讚賞。她現為西九文化區管理局諮詢會委員、香港演藝學院校董會成員、香港樹仁大學校董會成員及市區重建策略檢討督導委員會委員，致力於在有形及無形的文化遺產等重要範疇內，為香港建立開明的公共政策。黃女士醉心於政策研究，她在十年前創立的香港當代文化中心一直被視作研究及推動工具，促進本地文化及創意教育政策的變革。黃女士絕非唯命是從的人，從她大膽發表異於政府當權者的意見就可知一二。

黃女士向來務實、積極及靈活，這些特質正與她正直、決斷和堅毅的性格，相得益彰。黃女士如今以無政黨背景的身份參與民間工作，更感獨立自在；她可以透過參與倡導團體、以香港電台清談節目嘉賓主持身份所作的媒體工作，以及在東方日報和過往在明報撰寫的專欄，協助培育公眾對香港藝術及教育工作的承擔，並建立更穩健的基礎。黃女士現任香港兆基創意書院校監，該校為本港首間以創意為本的中學。她十分關注書院的學生，並對他們所取得的成就感到自豪。創意書院跟一些以專業為本的高等教育機構（如演藝學院）以至本港的博雅大學——嶺南大學——都不無具有價值的潛在關係。黃女士與嶺大的關係尤為親厚，曾任嶺大校董會及諮議會成員，貢獻良多。主席先生，為表彰黃女士多年來在香港公共服務的不同範疇的超卓貢獻和建樹，本人恭請閣下向黃英琦女士頒授榮譽院士銜。

由 *Michael Ingham* 博士撰寫及宣讀