

..... **Mrs. Gennie Lee Lin Gen-hwa**
Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*
Citation

The long-lasting bond between Lingnan and Mrs. Gennie Lee Lin Gen-hwa and her family began in Guangzhou, where her great-uncle, Mr. Lam Woo, and the first Chinese President of Lingnan University, Dr. Chung Wing-kwong, first met. The late Mr. Lin Yee-min, father of Mrs. Lee, was a student at both Guangzhou Lingnan Primary and Middle Schools. Upon graduating from the Tangshan Engineering College, he continued on to Purdue and Harvard Universities, where he studied civil engineering and city planning. Upon his return to China, he made far-reaching contributions to Lingnan, serving for decades as a Member of the Board of Lingnan University and a Trustee of the Lingnan Foundation.

Mrs. Lee also attended the Guangzhou Lingnan Middle School. Upon graduation, she attained her Bachelors degree in sociology at Beloit College, Wisconsin before returning to Hong Kong, where she earned a Master of Philosophy degree, and Diploma in Education from the University of Hong Kong. She then began her career with the Social Welfare Department, whose foremost task at that time was to deal with the massive influx of immigrants from China. Mrs. Lee was able to make a special contribution in aiding the resettlement and welfare of those refugees. In 1953, after the disastrous fire at the Shek Kip Mei squatter area, Mrs. Lee worked tirelessly to bring relief and rehabilitation to the thousands of victims. It was then that she was convinced that the long-term growth and welfare of Hong Kong could only be found upon greater good for the general public. This conviction has been a guiding force through her life, one that has been devoted to enhancing social and educational services for Hong Kong.

When she left Government service, Mrs. Lee then joined the Education Department, University of Hong Kong as a lecturer. Over the next twelve years, she had many opportunities to examine the interactive relationship between social services and education. She was instrumental in helping to establish the Child Guidance Centre at the University of Hong Kong, thus pioneering and laying down a solid foundation for Hong Kong's Special Education policy. In the twenty-odd years between 1968 and 1995, Mrs. Lee campaigned energetically for Special Education needs. She served as a Member of the Hong Kong Red Cross Schools Management Committee for an extended period and took up the position of Supervisor of the Hong Kong Red Cross Tze Wan Shan School concurrently. Since 1983, Mrs. Lee has served as a Member of the Board of the S.K.H. Lam Kau Mow Secondary School as well as Supervisor to the School.

Mrs. Lee also devoted herself to the service of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Red Cross Society. In 1975, as the Vietnam War ended, a large influx of Vietnamese boat people sought refuge in Hong Kong. Mrs. Lee represented the Hong Kong Red Cross in assisting the Government to settle the early arrivals. For a time, she also rendered her services to the International Red Cross to receive prisoners of war from the China Red Cross Society. Throughout these endeavours, her competence and leadership had come into full play.

Mrs. Lee has dedicated herself to social services since the 1950s. During these years, she has held numerous public appointments in a diversity of social-service and youth organizations, including serving as a Member of the Schools Management Committee of the Hong Kong Red Cross, Chairman of the Heep Hong Society, President of the Hong Kong Social Workers Association and Vice-president of the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong as well as a Member of the Boards of the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and the Hong Kong Housing Society.

For five generations, Mrs. Lee and the Lin family have been associated with the Lingnan institutions in one way or another, making them a shining example of the Lingnan tradition. Mrs. Lee has been a Member of the Board of the Lingnan Education Organization since 1989, serving as its Chairman from 1998 to 2002. She has also served as Chairman of the Board of the Lingnan Primary School and Kindergarten, Supervisor of the Lingnan Secondary School, Council Member of Lingnan University and Advisor to the Board of Governors of Lingnan College of Zhongshan University. Under her leadership, the Lingnan Secondary School successfully relocated to its new premises and raised substantial funds to add to the facilities of the new school. When the construction of the new campus of Lingnan University was in progress, Mrs. Lee and her three brothers contributed towards the establishment of a student hostel and a lecture hall, a gesture in keeping with the example set by their father. Chung Shun Land Investment Company, a Lin family business where Mrs. Lee is the Chairman, also donated a student hostel in 1998 to not only commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Company but also support the advancement of a liberal arts education at Lingnan.

Mr. Chairman, for several decades, Mrs. Lee has selflessly worked for the protection of disabled children and the education of the young. She has succeeded in epitomizing the true Lingnan spirit of "Education for Service". In recognition of her enduring contribution and unwavering commitment to the community in general and Lingnan in particular, may I present Mrs. Gennie Lee Lin Gen-hwa to you as a recipient of the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

李林建華女士 榮譽社會科學博士 贊辭

李林建華女士祖籍廣東新會，其先叔祖父林護先生早歲於廣州與嶺南大學首任華人校長鍾榮光博士論交，自此林氏家族與嶺南結下不解之緣。建華女士之先翁林逸民先生先後入讀廣州嶺南小學及嶺南中學，是林氏家族第二代的嶺南人。逸民先生中學畢業後負笈唐山交通大學、普渡大學及哈佛大學，修讀土木工程及城市建設。學成歸國後，歷任嶺南大學校董、美國嶺南大學基金會董事，對嶺南大學的發展貢獻良多。

建華女士幼承庭訓，亦曾肄業於廣州嶺南中學，畢業後遠赴美國威斯康辛州貝來博雅學院修讀社會學，回港後在香港大學先後獲取哲學碩士及教育文憑，並任職社會福利署，期間國內政局初定，大量人口南遷來港，建華女士在短短幾年間處理了大量難民事務。1953年石硤尾木屋區火災，建華女士參與災場及善後工作，為數萬名災民重建家園。這些基層的社會工作，使建華女士深切體會到香港社會的長遠發展，必須建基在對普羅大眾的關懷上。從此建華女士積極投身社會服務及教育事業，開展了她對香港社會長達半個世紀的義務工作。

建華女士完成了社會福利署的工作後轉往教育方面發展，任教於香港大學教育系。在十二年的教學及研究生涯中，她致力探索社會服務與教育的互動關係，並協助香港大學成立兒童心理輔導中心，為後來香港特殊教育政策奠定了良好的基礎，而學校社會工作計劃就是建華女士籌劃的成果。1968至1995二十多年間，建華女士積極推動特殊教育，長期擔任香港紅十字會學校管理委員會委員的職務，當中兼任香港紅十字會慈雲山學校校監達二十年之久。自1983年起，建華女士又兼任聖公會林裘謀中學校董，後更出任該校校監一職。

離開香港大學之後，建華女士先後任職香港小童群益會及香港紅十字會。1975年越戰結束，大量越南船民來香港避難。建華女士代表香港紅十字會協助香港政府安頓了早期抵港的難民，其間更一度協助國際紅十字會接收中國紅十字會交回戰俘一事。這些事件充分顯示建華女士過人的辦事魄力以及卓越的領導才能。事實上，建華女士自五十年代起，一直積極參與社會服務工作，四十多年來出任多個社會服務及青少年事務機構的公職，包括香港基督教女青年會董事、香港紅十字會學校管理委員會委員、協康會會長、香港社會服務聯會董事、香港房屋協會委員、香港社會工作人員協會會長、香港家庭計劃指導會副會長等。

建華女士系出嶺南世家，上下五代均有成員為「紅灰兒女」，堪稱「嶺南一家親」的模範家族。1989年建華女士加入嶺南教育機構的董事局，先後出任嶺南小學及幼稚園校董會主席、嶺南中學校監、嶺南大學校董、中山大學嶺南（大學）學院顧問等重要職務；後於1998至2002年榮任嶺南教育機構主席。在她的領導之下，嶺南中學成功遷往新校址發展，並籌得大量經費添置設施器材。嶺南大學籌建新校舍時，建華女士及其三位昆仲克承父志，率先捐建一座學生宿舍及一所演講廳。建華女士擔任主席的林氏家族祖業忠信置業有限公司，於1998年捐建一座學生宿舍，為公司七十周年紀念誌慶，亦為推動嶺南大學博雅教育的理念，作出莫大的貢獻。

主席先生，李林建華女士數十年來護幼扶弱，興學育才，體現了嶺南校訓「作育英才服務社會」的精神。為表揚建華女士對社會及嶺南的貢獻，恭請主席先生頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予李林建華女士。