

## **Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung**

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION *honoris causa*

### **Citation**

Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung is Chairman of the Board of the Lee & Man Group of Companies. As a great entrepreneur with exceptional business acumen, Mr Lee has built a remarkable career from scratch. Today, the Lee & Man Group has developed into a conglomerate with distinguished performance in a wide range of industries, such as paper and leather bag manufacturing, chemicals, real estate and hotels. Its products are well received not only in China but also in numerous countries in Europe and the Americas.

A native of Hainan Province, Mr Lee moved with his relatives to Hong Kong in 1945, where he received his education and learnt how to run a business from his third uncle. Eager to start his own business, Mr Lee began manufacturing cassette tapes under a new self-made brand, thereby earning his first pot of gold in 1976. When China launched its open door reforms in the late 1970s, Mr Lee felt optimistic about the tremendous opportunities in the Chinese market and the bright prospects of the nation's development. His determination to invest in industries in Dongguan made him one of the first Hong Kong entrepreneurs to operate factories in mainland China.

As an insightful, hard-working and practical industrialist, Mr Lee also demonstrates great vision, shrewdness and vigilance in business. While light industries were flourishing in the Pearl River Delta, Mr Lee envisaged that a large number of private enterprises would enter the market. He concluded that his company would have to engage in more competitive industries with higher entry barriers for further expansion. In 1994, he responded to the rising demand for paper by founding Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing Limited, taking the lead to dip into heavy industries. Today, Lee & Man Paper Manufacturing has become one of the world's leading paper and pulp manufacturers, and has been listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since 2003. Under Mr Lee's strong leadership, the Lee & Man Group also achieved remarkable success in the chemical, real estate and hotel businesses.

Highly devoted to his family and the education of his children, Mr Lee makes himself a good role model, and helps his children apprehend the key to success through subtle influence. He does not hesitate to abandon the convention of asking

his children to run the family business, since younger generations may not be interested in continuing what their forefathers have established. Mr Lee's parenting efforts have been well paid off by his children's success in their business careers and devotion to charity. They have made generous donations to support educational causes. For example, Mr Lee's third son Mr Lee Man-bun has donated HK\$27 million to further support Lingnan University's development in liberal arts education.

In addition to his achievements in business, Mr Lee has devoted himself to public and philanthropic services. He has served as the 4th Chairman of the World Federation of Hainan Associations, a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Guangdong Province, the 43rd and 44th Chairman of the Hong Kong Hainan Commercial Association, as well as Honorary Chairman of the CEO Club of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong New Territories Commercial & Industrial General Association. Currently Mr Lee is the Honorary Principal of the Qionghai Jiaji Secondary School and Guoxing Secondary School on Hainan Island, responsible for setting the direction of school development. Since 1984, his generous donations to schools in Hainan, Guangdong, Beijing, Guizhou and Hunan as well as to other worthy causes are estimated to have exceeded HK\$100 million; his dedication is well recognised by the authorities and local communities. For his generous contributions, Mr Lee has received the China Charity Award from the Chinese Ministry of Civic Affairs in 2005, and was made an honorary citizen of Dongguan.

Over the years, Mr Lee and his family have given enthusiastic support to education and to Lingnan University to further promote liberal arts education. His emphasis on social responsibility and education sets a great example for society. Mr Chancellor, may I present Mr Patrick Lee Wan-keung to you for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*.

*Chinese citation written and delivered by Dr Alfred Wong Shiu-ho*

# 李運強先生

榮譽工商管理學博士

## 贊辭

李運強先生現任理文系列公司董事局主席。李先生憑過人的眼光和勇於開拓的精神，白手興家，不斷拓展業務。今天，理文集團公司已發展成爲手袋、造紙、化工、房地產及酒店等集團式經營的企業，產品不但暢銷中國，還遠銷歐洲和美洲等數十個國家和地區。

李先生原籍海南，1945 年隨親人來港接受教育，後跟隨三叔學習經商，積累經驗，自創品牌，生產錄音帶而於 1976 年賺得第一桶金，由此積累財富。上世紀七十年代末，中國內地改革開放，百廢待興，李先生看好國內市場前景和中國的無限商機，毅然到東莞投資實業，是第一批回內地投資設廠的香港企業家。

李先生是獨具慧眼且勤勞務實的工業家。他思維敏銳，不但有遠見，更有危機感。爲成就更大的事業，當輕工業在珠三角蓬勃發展時，李先生已居安思危，預想到將會有大批民營企業投入競爭，公司因而需要開拓難度更高、更具競爭力的行業。李先生審時度勢，早於 1994 年成立理文造紙，向重工業進軍。今天，理文造紙已發展成爲全球最具領導地位的箱板原紙及紙漿生產商之一，並於 2003 年在香港聯合交易所主板上市。在李先生的領導下，理文集團在化工、房地產、酒店等行業的發展亦取得驕人的成績。

李先生重視家庭，注重對子女的培育；透過潛移默化及以身作則的方法，啓發子女領略成功之道。李先生敢於突破傳統思想，未曾刻意強求子承父業，因爲下一代未必有興趣繼承上一輩創下的基業。李先生的子女各有成就，不但在商界表現出色，而且熱心慈善與公益事業，回饋社會，捐資助學。其中三子李文斌先生曾慷慨捐贈嶺大二千七百萬元，幫助嶺大繼續發揚博雅教育，便是明證。

李運強先生在商場上成就卓著，同時亦投身多項公職及公益服務。李先生曾擔任第四屆世界海南鄉團聯會主席、廣東省政協常委、香港海南商會第 43 及 44 屆會長、香港理工大學總裁協會名譽會長和香港新界工商業總會榮譽會長等。李先生現任海南省嘉積中學及國興中學名譽校長，並爲學校制定明確的發展方向。從 1984 年起，李先生先後在海南、廣東、北京、貴州及湖南等地捐資助學，多年來熱心資助國內各項公益事業，其慷慨捐贈估計達億元以上，成績有目共睹。李先生對公益事業的熱心奉獻，受到社會人士的肯定與讚揚，先後獲中華人民共和國民政部頒發 2005 年中華慈善大獎及東莞市榮譽市民名銜。

李先生及其家人多年來對教育和嶺南大學熱心支持，協助嶺大拓展博雅教育，令莘莘學子受益。其重視社會責任與教育的善行，爲我們樹立了良好的榜樣。校監先生，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽工商管理學博士學位予李運強先生。

由黃兆濠博士撰寫及宣讀