

Dr Peter Wong Tung-shun, GBS, JP

Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*

Citation

Dr Peter Wong Tung-shun is probably the most prominent banker in Hong Kong, and the only executive to have held the top post at three of the city's largest international banks - Citigroup, Standard Chartered, and now HSBC. He is the only banker whose signature has appeared on banknotes issued by the latter two banks.

Born in Hong Kong, Dr Wong received his primary and secondary education here before pursuing higher education in the United States, where he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, an MBA in Marketing and Finance, and an MSc in Computer Science at Indiana University, where he studied artificial intelligence and big data theory. He is a member of the Academy of Alumni Fellows, at Indiana's Kelley School of Business.

Dr Wong built his reputation in Hong Kong as the first Chinese Asia-Pacific chief executive of HSBC. His experience and wisdom grew as he weathered 11 seismic economic and industry crises including the Asian currency crisis, the global financial crisis and multiple epidemics. Over his 40-year career, Dr Wong repeatedly managed to find opportunities in volatile situations. He has also played a critical role helping to explain China to the West.

Banking was not his initial career choice. He started out as an educator in the United States before joining Citibank in 1980 to drive the digitisation of its banking systems. After nearly two decades of star-studded achievements, he moved to Standard Chartered Bank where he was later appointed as the first Chinese CEO of Standard Chartered Hong Kong.

Dr Wong joined HSBC in 2005 as General Manager and Executive Director, and was appointed Chief Executive of Asia Pacific in 2010. During his tenure, he sharpened the bank's focus on Asia, thereby enhancing the region's connectivity to the rest of the world across the HSBC network and turning Asia into the bank's primary growth engine. He stayed honest and grounded, showed outstanding business acumen and a keen sense of global awareness, and exhibited a strong sense of responsibility for keeping Hong Kong thriving as a top international financial centre.

Understanding the role technology can play in improving people's lives and stimulating economic activity, he has argued that digitisation and innovation are key for our city's continued success. As a leader he is well-known for empowering his people to explore new solutions and consider new ideas, to take risks and reap rewards.

Dr Wong's contribution to Hong Kong extends well beyond the financial industry. He has served the Board of The Community Chest of Hong Kong for over six years and he is currently a Vice Patron. As Chair of the HSBC's The Hongkong Bank Foundation, he led the Foundation to focus on the fostering of Hong Kong's youth for the future, and the welfare of the elderly.

“I still love my job and my life at HSBC and will continue to contribute to the bank, giving advice and also working on charity programmes that benefit the community of Hong Kong,” he told the *South China Morning Post* in an interview last year.

He remains active in numerous government bodies and industry associations. He has been Chair of The Hong Kong Association of Banks for four terms; Chairman of The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce; President of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers; a member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council’s Belt and Road Committee and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority’s Exchange Fund Advisory Committee; and a board member of the China Banking Association. He is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

In 2020, he was awarded a Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in recognition of his dedicated public service to the community and distinguished contributions to the financial services sector. The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong conferred an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*) on him in March of this year, in recognition of his achievements in the financial industry and Hong Kong community. Dr Wong continues to add to his legacy. He is passionate about nurturing the youth of today so that they can contribute holistically to the excellence of Hong Kong and weather times of economic stress like today. Seeing young people as catalysts of change, he continues to mentor university students and young colleagues at work. This is all harmonised with Lingnan’s mission.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his great contributions, I present Dr Peter Wong Tung-shun for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Business Administration *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Patrick Poon Shing-chung