

Honorary Fellow – Citation
Ms Chan Yuen-han, SBS, JP

Ms Chan Yuen-han, SBS, JP, was born in China, and attended Hoi Luk Fung School, San Kiu Middle School and Chack Kwan Middle School. She came from a grass-roots family with five siblings, and as their father died at the age of 40, they could barely scrape by. She started working when she turned 12, but later managed to study part-time for a Higher Diploma jointly organised by Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Hong Kong Management Association, and went for a visiting study period at the Philosophy Department of Guangdong Science & Research University. She went to the University of Warwick in 1992 for a master's degree programme in labour studies, but under the traditional Chinese worry of “regretting after one's parents pass away”, she returned to Hong Kong to take care of her mother when the latter fell ill, and was unable to finish the course.

Cultivated by her father at an early age, Ms Chan enjoyed reading, which helped to nurture her black-and-white personality and patriotic sentiments that drove her to know more about her country. After entering the labour force, she gradually felt the unfairness of the social system and the exploitation of workers' rights and interests. She started working in trade unions in 1971, and has never stopped working full time since then. Feeling that joining the political apparatus could help workers even more, she participated in the 1988 District Council direct elections, in the hope of joining deliberations on issues such as public housing, poverty, welfare and the Chun Yeung Street incident. She participated in the Legislative Council elections in 1991, served as a member of the Legislative Council from 1995 to 1997 and as a member of the Provisional Legislative Council from 1997 to 1998. From 1998 to 2008, Ms Chan was an elected member of the HKSAR Legislative Council, once becoming the “queen of votes”. Since 2008, she has retreated from the front line and gone back to trade

union work, serving as Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions. For many years, Ms Chan has been participating in negotiations in labour-management disputes, such as those concerning Da Da Department Store, Yaohan and KPS, with the ultimate goal of fighting for workers' welfare through trade unions. Ms Chan's life is essentially linked to her job.

Ms Chan was diagnosed with cancer more than seven years ago, but continued to work with diligence and perseverance, battling against her illness. Fortunately, she has received enormous support and encouragement from friends and family, which have helped her win the battle. Ms Chan goes hiking with friends at leisure time and experiences "overcoming adversity" first-hand; hiking also relaxes the body and mind, allowing one to further explore nature as well as the meaning of life.

After returning to work for the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, Ms Chan feels even more keenly that there are still over a million people living in poverty in Hong Kong. Hoping to take Tokyo and Seoul as role models and facilitate the development of a pluralistic sub-culture economy, she has discussed various issues with the government such as revitalising commercial buildings, decking Kai Tak River and doing archaeological investigation on Lung Tsun River, in order to create employment opportunities and foster the spirit of environmental protection in heritage conservation.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Ms Chan's distinguished contributions to society, enthusiastic service to the working class and efforts in advancing trade union work over the years, may I now present Ms Chan Yuen-han to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Chinese citation written and delivered by Prof Siu Oi-ling

榮譽院士贊辭 陳婉嫻女士

陳婉嫻女士，生於中國，先後就讀於海陸豐公學、新橋中學及澤群中學。自幼家貧，父親 40 歲便去世，有兄弟姊妹 5 人，故此生計難為。12 歲起，即踏出社會工作。及後半工讀，修畢香港理工大學及香港管理學會合辦的工商管理高級文憑課程，並曾於廣東省科研大學哲學系訪問學習。92 年，赴英國華威大學修讀勞工碩士課程，因母病，恐「樹欲靜而風不息，子欲養而親不在」，返港侍母，未能完成整個課程。

早歲深受父親培養，喜愛閱讀，令陳女士性格黑白分明，並熱切愛護國家，希望更多認識。後投入社會謀生，漸感到制度之不公平，及工人之權益多受剝削，開始參加工會，從事工會工作。自 1971 年起，全職工作至今，從未停頓；後感進入議會，更能幫助工人。1988 年參選區議會，參加公屋、窮人、民生問題以及春秧街等事件之討論。1991 年開始參加立法局直選，1995 年當選立法局議員至 1997 年，1997 至 1998 年為臨時立法會議員，由 1998 年至 2008 年，為香港特別行政區立法會議員，曾一度成為票后。2008 起退居二綫，重返工會工作，為香港工會聯合會副會長至今。陳女士多年來參與多項勞資糾紛談判，如大大公司、八佰伴、金獅事件等，不勝枚舉，最終目的是為工會工作，為工人謀求福祉。陳女士之生命，可謂與其工作連為一體。

七年多前陳女士患上癌症，但仍能秉承其認真勤奮之態度及精神工作，與病魔搏鬥。尚幸憑藉朋友及家人的支持與鼓勵，得以戰勝病魔。陳女士工餘時會與友儕行山運動，親身體會「迎難而上」，同時亦可舒展身心，探索自然，令人多思索人生意義。

重返工會工作後，有感於香港仍有過百萬窮人，希望能推動多元次文化經濟，以日本東京及南韓首爾為榜樣，與政府探討活化商廈及啓德明河、考古龍津河等問題，以刺激就業，及秉承保育古蹟的環保精神。

主席先生，為表揚陳女士多年來對社會的貢獻、對勞工階層的熱心幫助、對推動工會運動的努力，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予陳婉嫻女士。

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