

# Mr Charles Nicholas Brooke, GBS, JP

## Honorary Fellow

### Citation

From managing farms and estates in England to advising on international property investments in the Middle East and Hong Kong, Mr Charles Nicholas Brooke has earned his reputation as a global authority on property development and investment.

Mr Brooke was born in England, but he spent the first 14 years of his life in Brazil, whence his parents had migrated for employment. Life in Brazil was challenging but delightful, with so much to learn at a very young age in the bustling city of São Paulo. His family's return to Yorkshire in England presented a new challenge, but he met it with the same delight: "I think it was testing, but it was good for me", he reflects. Indeed, the contrast between urban life in São Paulo and "village life" in Yorkshire was the genesis of his interest in the built environment. The move to Yorkshire opened his eyes to "a world of challenges and opportunities".

As he has done throughout his life, Mr Brooke made the most of opportunity while in England: he not only managed to "catch up" with his English classmates but even topped his class in almost all subjects, despite his initial lack of fluency. He was not just academically gifted but also a natural leader, both the head boy and captain of the rugby team. After high school graduation, he pursued his early interest in the built environment by obtaining a BSc in Estate Management and a postgraduate diploma in Business Administration from the University of London. He also qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and became a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.

From 1964-1972, he managed farms and estates for the Crown and Church Commissioners in the UK before moving to the Middle East as a consultant to the ruling families in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), whom he advised on their worldwide real estate investment programmes for eight years. When he arrived in the UAE in 1972, he was one of a handful of expatriates in the country. By the time he left, he had helped lay a foundation for the UAE's future development.

In 1980, Mr Brooke accepted the position of Deputy Managing Director of Swire Properties Limited — a leading property developer in Hong Kong. While at Swire, he coordinated the development of two of Hong Kong's renowned commercial projects: Taikoo Shing and Pacific Place. Over the next two decades, he also commenced a career of public service. He was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Town Planning Board, a member of the Hong Kong Housing Authority and a Justice of the Peace in 1996.

In the new millennium, he assisted the Hong Kong Government with the partial privatisation of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation and with the launch of the Link Real Estate Investment Trust, part of the privatisation of over 150 shopping centres previously owned by the Housing Authority. He also contributed significantly to the revitalisation of Ocean Park Hong Kong and the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District. From 2001 to 2014, Mr Brooke was a Board member of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and became Chairman since 2007 and he led the development of all three phases of the Hong Kong Science Park. Under his chairmanship of

the Harbourfront Commission from 2010 to 2018, Mr Brooke advised the Hong Kong Government and private developers on how to improve the recreational and touristic appeal of Victoria Harbour. In terms of his international contribution during this time, he served as Global President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 2003-2004, and was elected Asia Pacific Chairman of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) from 2018 to 2021.

Currently, he is a principal advisor on Policy Partnership on Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) for the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Chairman of Professional Property Services Limited, which provides strategic advice and direction in planning and development, particularly in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Vietnam, and the Middle East.

Mr Brooke's life and career have been guided by "3-Ps": **P**atience, **P**erseverance and **P**assion. He believes that we "need all three to be successful" and that "whatever you do, the driver has to be passion...if you don't have that passion, you're not going to change things". While he considers himself "very lucky" in his career, he would not be where he is today without the 3-Ps, especially passion. To Mr Brooke's 3-Ps, we can add a fourth, **P**robity, for he has always upheld the highest professional ethics and standards.

Although Mr Brooke has lived and/or worked in Brazil, Britain, and Bahrain, he has been in "a love affair with Hong Kong". The "mixture of town and country" of the "fascinating city" means so much to him that he cannot see himself living anywhere else. This is why he is not resting on his laurels despite all his enviable achievements. He is eager to do more to improve people's lives in areas of housing and the development of the built environment that encourage a sense of community and enable people to "mix and meld together". He aims to continue sharing his experiences, mentor youth and help plan for a more sustainable and resilient Hong Kong that can withstand the adverse effects of climate change and respond to all "what if scenarios". He considers it his duty "to leave not just Hong Kong but also the world in a better state" for his "two children, four grandchildren and their descendants".

Mr Brooke has already won many accolades. He is an honorary member of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects and the Hong Kong Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, and an honorary fellow of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University College of Estate Management, UK. In recognition of his dedication and contribution to Hong Kong society in areas of housing and harbourfront enhancement, Mr Brooke was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star (1999), the Silver Bauhinia Star (2012) and the Gold Bauhinia Star (2018). Let us now add to his honors.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements and distinguished public and community service, it is my privilege to present Mr Charles Nicholas Brooke for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Padmore Adusei Amoah*

# 蒲祿祺先生

榮譽院士

## 贊辭

從管理英國的農場和莊園，到為中東和香港的國際房地產投資項目出謀獻策，蒲祿祺先生在房地產開發和投資領域均聲譽卓著。

蒲先生在英國出生，因父母工作的關係，他人生的首14個寒暑都在巴西度過。巴西的生活繽紛璀璨，在繁忙熱鬧的聖保羅市，可供他探索和學習的比比皆是。他跟隨家人回到英國約克郡的時候，需要再次適應新環境，可是他以既積極又喜悅的心情來迎接挑戰，他說：「我認為這是一場考驗，而這考驗對我大有裨益。」經歷過聖保羅市的繁華洗禮及約克郡的「鄉村生活」，兩極的體驗令蒲先生對「建築環境領域」(Built environment) 產生濃厚興趣。移居約克郡後亦讓他把握契機，放眼於充滿了機遇和挑戰的周遭環境。

蒲先生勇於抓住機遇，儘管在英國就學初期英語並不流利，但他奮力求進，成功趕上班上同學，幾乎所有學科均名列前茅。在學期間，他既是學校的學生領袖，亦是橄欖球隊的隊長。蒲先生其後取得倫敦大學房地產管理理學士學位和工商管理文憑，讓他進一步發展自己對建築環境領域的興趣。及後，他又取得特許測量師資格，並且成為英國皇家特許測量師學會及香港測量師學會的資深會員。

從1964年到1972年，蒲先生在英國為皇室和教會專員管理農場和莊園，及後移居中東八年，擔任巴林和阿拉伯聯合酋長國(阿聯酋)王室家族的首席顧問，為他們的全球房地產投資項目提供專業意見。蒲先生於1972年抵達阿聯酋時，該地的外籍人士寥寥可數，他的努力誠然為阿聯酋日後的發展奠立重要的基石。

1980年，蒲先生出任香港房地產開發商巨頭太古地產有限公司的副董事總經理。任內，他負責統籌和協調太古城和太古廣場這兩個香港著名商業項目的發展。接下來的20年，蒲先生積極參與並擔任不同公職。他曾出任城市規劃委員會副主席及香港房屋委員會委員。1996年，香港政府委任蒲先生為太平紳士。

蒲先生於2000年協助香港政府將地下鐵路公司進行部分私有化。此外，他亦參與領展房地產投資信託基金的創立工作，將房屋委員會轄下150多個購物中心私有化。蒲先生亦為振興香港海洋公園及西九文化區規劃發展作出重大貢獻。在2001年至2014年期間，蒲先生擔任香港科技園公司董事會成員，同時亦於2007年開始出任主席一職，領導香港科學園三個階段的發展。他於2010年至2018年出任海濱事務委員會主席期間，亦就如何提升維多利亞港的康樂及旅遊設施和配套，向香港政府和私人發展商提供

寶貴意見。在國際層面上，蒲先生於2003年至2004年期間出任英國皇家特許測量師學會的環球主席。此外，他亦於2018年至2021年出任城市土地學會亞太區的主席。

目前，蒲先生為由21個成員國組成的亞太經濟合作組織(APEC)旗下的科技創新政策夥伴工作小組擔任首席顧問。他亦是Professional Property Services Limited的主席，該公司主要為不同機構提供規劃和發展策略諮詢服務，尤其是集中在香港、中國內地、越南和中東等地區。

蒲先生的生活和事業皆以「3-Ps」為本：耐心(Patience)、毅力(Perseverance)和熱忱(Passion)。他認為「要三者俱備才能取得成功，並且無論做任何事，原動力都必須是激情……如果沒有那種激情，就不能改變任何事情」。雖然蒲先生以「非常幸運」來形容自己的事業發展，但如果沒有3-Ps，尤其是激情，他是不會有今天的成就。在蒲先生的3-Ps中，我們可以為他加添第4個P - 誠信(Probity)，因為他一直堅持最高的職業道德和標準。

雖然曾於巴西、英國及巴林生活和工作，但蒲先生對香港情有獨鍾，因為這個迷人城市有城鄉混合的獨特魅力，他無法想像自己能離開這裡而去其他地方生活。儘管事業有成，蒲先生不會故步自封，他仍會繼續向前、精益求精。他期望自己能在香港住屋和建築環境領域的發展方面多作貢獻，以改善市民生活及促進社區和諧共融。他希望能繼續以經驗指導年輕一代，並能規劃一個更具可持續性和韌力的香港，以抵禦氣候變化及其他未知因素帶來的影響。蒲先生認為自己有責任為兩名子女、四名孫兒及後人締造一個更優美的香港和更美好的世界。

蒲先生譽滿業內，不僅是香港建築師學會和美國建築師學會(香港分會)的名譽會員，亦是香港科技大學和英國產業管理大學的榮譽院士。為表揚蒲先生對香港社會，特別是在房屋、創新、科技和改善海濱設施的貢獻，香港政府曾先後授予他銅紫荊星章(1999年)、銀紫荊星章(2012年)和金紫荊星章(2018年)。

主席先生，為表彰蒲先生傑出的專業成就和在公職及社區服務的重大貢獻，本人謹此恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予蒲祿祺先生。

贊辭由柏墨教授撰寫及宣讀