

Mr David Kwok Sek-chi

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Hong Kong has remained rock solid through the international financial turmoil in recent years, retaining its pre-eminence as a regional and world financial centre. This is due in no small part to the professionalism and conscientiousness of the banking and finance community here, and notably to the efforts of certain individuals within that community who have dedicated themselves to their profession and to the people of the SAR. Mr Chairman, we have one such individual with us today: Mr David Kwok Sek-chi, recipient of the title of honorary fellow of Lingnan University.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr Kwok studied science until he found his true calling when he joined the Shanghai Commercial Bank in 1971. This was the start of an association which has continued for over five decades. Originally placed in a junior position, he possessed a keen desire for knowledge, and was able to steadily accumulate both broad and deep experience in banking, giving him the confidence to move forward. His talent was soon recognised, and he was promoted to manager of the Bank's overseas branches in San Francisco, New York and London. It was during this time that he learned the importance of risk management in banking, knowledge which has served him well throughout his career.

Returning to Hong Kong in 1997, Mr Kwok served the Bank during some tumultuous times: the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997, the SARS epidemic of 2003, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, and the social unrest in Hong Kong in 2014 and 2019. He helped keep the Bank on an even keel through these rough waters, as Director from 2001, as General Manager from 2004 and as Managing Director and Chief Executive from 2007. He currently holds the post of Deputy Chairman of the Bank in Hong Kong. He is also a director of the Bank of Shanghai in Mainland China.

Outside of the Bank, Mr Kwok has served on the boards of a variety of business entities, professional associations and quasi-government bodies. He has also acted as a board member of a charity for the underprivileged in the SAR, in particular the elderly and the indigent.

Mr Kwok attributes his success to the principles that have guided him in life: integrity, commitment and a sense of social responsibility. In spite of his significant professional achievements, he remains a humble person at heart, grateful for the opportunities he has had to contribute meaningfully to the development of Hong Kong society.

Mr Kwok cares deeply about nurturing talented youth in banking and finance. In addition to serving on the Banking Industry Training Advisory Committee, he spent six years as Chairman of the Banking and Finance Training Board of the Vocational Training Council (VTC), helping to establish new programmes in financial technology. Recognising that young people today have difficulty in getting work experience due to stiff competition, he regularly arranges mentorships, scholarships and internships for potential banking professionals studying at university, including at Lingnan. He advises students to work in a variety of fields to find their true passion, and once they have embarked on a certain path, to proceed along it with a logical mind-set and with an end goal in mind. He stresses that any path a young person might choose today should lead overseas and through new realms of potential created by the dynamic forces of globalisation and digitalisation.

Mr Kwok holds many professional recognitions: he is a Fellow of the Chartered Banker Institute in the UK, a Fellow Certified Banker and Honorary Secretary of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, and an honorary fellow of the VTC.

Mr Chairman, for his outstanding services to his profession and to the community, I present Mr David Kwok Sek-chi for the award of the title of honorary fellow of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Richard Stanley Simmons

郭錫志先生

榮譽院士

贊辭

香港近年縱使屢受國際金融風暴影響，仍能保持其亞洲及世界金融中心的卓越地位。這來之不易的地位，固然有賴本港銀行和金融界的群策群力，而一眾熱心為業界和廣大市民服務的業內翹楚更是功不可沒——主席先生，在座就有其中一位業內翹楚，他就是將獲頒授嶺南大學榮譽院士銜的郭錫志先生。

郭先生在香港土生土長，本來研習科學的他於1971年完成學業後進入上海商業銀行工作，至今已有50多年之久。郭先生先從初級職位做起，他好學不倦，持續積累了處理銀行事務的各類經驗，增強了不斷進取的信心。及後，郭先生獲公司賞識，被派往銀行於三藩市、紐約及倫敦的分行處理業務。在這段日子裏，他瞭解到風險管理在銀行業中的重要性，這對他往後的職業生涯有莫大裨益。

1997年，郭先生回港發展，協助銀行渡過多個危機——包括1997年亞洲金融風暴、2003年沙士疫情、2008年環球金融危機，以及2014年和2019年的香港社會事件。銀行在這些關鍵時期委他以重任：郭先生於2001年升任董事、2004年升任總經理、2007年升任常務董事兼行政總裁。郭先生持續的影響力對銀行渡過難關發揮了巨大作用。郭先生現在還擔任銀行的副董事長及國內上海銀行的董事。

除了熱心銀行事務，郭先生亦曾服務多間商業機構、專業協會及半官方機構的董事會；他還擔任過慈善機構的董事會成員，致力服務香港弱勢群體，特別是老年人和面臨經濟困難的人士。

郭先生將他的事業成就歸功於其座右銘：誠信、承擔、社會責任感。儘管事業有成，他仍擁有一顆謙遜的心，十分慶幸自己一直有機會為香港社會的發展作出貢獻。

郭先生對培育銀行及金融業的專才不遺餘力，除擔任銀行業培訓諮詢委員會成員外，他曾出任職業訓練局屬下銀行及金融業培訓委員會主席，在六年任期內曾協助開辦有關金融科技的新課程。郭先生瞭解到年輕人難以於競爭激烈的職場中獲取實質的工作經驗，所以定期為有意投身銀行業的大學生——包括嶺南大學的學生——提供輔導以及獎學金和實習機會。他認為學生應先嘗試在不同領域工作以發掘自己的興趣，一旦選定未來的路向，就要以理性投入工作，並設定人生目標；此外，他強調：獲取海外經驗以及認識到全球化和數碼化帶來的機遇對他們的事業發展十分重要，並可引領他們開發潛能。

郭先生擁有多項專業資格，是英國銀行學會資深會士、香港銀行學會的資深銀行專業會士及理事會榮譽秘書，以及職業訓練局榮譽院士。

主席先生，為表彰郭錫志先生對銀行業及社會作出的傑出貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予郭先生。

贊辭由Richard Stanley Simmons教授撰寫及宣讀