

Mr Pong Chun-Yee David, JP

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Pong Chun-Yee David was born in Hong Kong in 1969, the second of three children. After attending public school in Canterbury, England, Mr Pong went to the United States for his undergraduate studies, obtaining a Master of Science (MSc) in Economics from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation, he joined the business that his grandfather had founded in 1950: Shiu Wing Steel Limited, which, like our University, moved to Tuen Mun in the 1990s. (Incidentally, Mr Pong's father, Mr Frank Pong, and Lingnan University's former President, Professor Edward Chen, were friends.)

Shiu Wing currently owns a scrapyards as well as the only steel mill in Hong Kong, providing the local market with rebar for reinforced concrete construction. Mr Pong has worked at Shiu Wing ever since, and is its current director. Mr Pong stays very close to his large and tightly knit family not only at the office but also at weekly luncheons. Though these have been put on hold during the pandemic, they attract over 60 family members on major celebrations and holidays.

Mr Pong is also active outside of his family, both in business and service capacity. Let me start with his business ventures. First, as a director of DXD Group Limited, he is helping the municipal government of Zhaoqing — the largest of the 11 cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area — with a pilot “smart city” project. Second, he is building on his experience in the television broadcasting industry by branching out into the entertainment industry: he recently launched Highyun, a new media platform for popular culture in the Greater Bay Area.

In terms of service, Mr Pong has made numerous contributions to the arts. For about a decade, he was involved in the production of Chinese theatre through The Spring-Time Group. In addition, he has also lent his support to a number of public arts institutions. Presently, Mr Pong is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tai Kwun Culture and Arts Company Limited; Board Member of the visual culture museum M+ and Member of its Acquisitions Committee; Advisor to the Our Hong Kong Foundation; and Chairman of The Ink Society. Previously, Mr Pong served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art Endowment Trust; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, California; Member of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Arts Centre; Council Member of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts; Member of the Board of Directors of Asia Art Archive; Council Member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council; and Member of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Ballet. In fact, the list goes on, and is too long to be included here in its entirety.

Among his past and present public service commitments, there is one that stands out, one that has taken up most of Mr Pong's time and is perhaps closest to his heart. That is his role as the co-founder, Vice-Chairman and, currently, Chairman of The Ink Society. The Society was founded

in 2003 by Mr Pong, Mrs Alice King and a group of Chinese ink art enthusiasts to promote the appreciation of classical and contemporary Chinese ink art. Chinese ink art has a long history, of course, with a special connection to Hong Kong, because it received a fresh impetus from the New Ink Movement spearheaded by Lui Shou-kwan and Liu Kuo-sung, among others, in the 1960s.

As part of its mission, the Society regularly organises talks and other events with scholars and curators from local and overseas institutions, including Lingnan University. In general, the Society works in partnership with other organisations such as Fine Art Asia, M+, Hong Kong Museum of Art and various universities in Hong Kong. In this way, The Ink Society, and Mr Pong himself, have not just been riding a wave of new interest in Chinese ink art, but have actively contributed to it. Their influence is reflected in the art market, as well as in the collection of local museums such as the Hong Kong Museum of Art and M+. Mr Pong himself has a collection of contemporary Chinese ink art, albeit a “modest” one by his own description.

In light of the aforementioned achievements and contributions, it is not surprising that Mr Pong has already been awarded a Justice of the Peace title and an honorary fellowship from The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, among other honours.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his work as a director of companies that play an important and often unique role in Hong Kong and in the Greater Bay Area; and in recognition of his outstanding public service in the visual and performing arts fields, and Chinese ink art in particular, may I present Mr Pong Chun-Yee David to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Rafael De Clercq