法學榮譽博士

Doctor of Laws honoris causa



周永健博士 Dr. Anthony CHOW Wing-Kin

From Hong Kong's century-old law association to the city's largest community benefactor, Dr. Anthony CHOW Wing-Kin has taken the helm of some of the city's leading institutions and contributed to his hometown's legal and social development. His life-long passion for law and horse racing has also had a telling impact beyond the court and racecourse.

Dr. Chow attended the St. Joan of Arc Secondary School in Hong Kong, whose motto "Civic Responsibility" shaped his personal philosophy in life and in his career. He later went to a boarding school in England before embarking on dentistry studies in Manchester. He soon found it was not his true vocation, and moved to London to pursue his long-cherished dream of becoming a lawyer by joining the College of Law.

Upon admission as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in 1979, he was offered a job at an international firm, which brought him back to Hong Kong.

Having spent more than 16 years working in law in Hong Kong, Dr. Chow, at the age of 47, took on a momentous role at a historic time for the city — just over one month ahead of the handover of Hong Kong, he became President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, on committees of which he served from 1994 through 2018.

His three-year tenure would be instrumental in helping Hong Kong's legal profession build lasting ties with mainland counterparts, acting as one of the early bridges between the two different legal systems. Dr. Chow's hard work, which involved a lot of time spent away from home taking members of the society on exchange programs to over 20 mainland cities paid off, and laid the foundations for enduring connections. With his sociable nature, Dr. Chow welcomed many mainland legal practitioners at seminars and to train in law firms in Hong Kong to acquire the know-how of running law firms and delivering legal services with professional conduct and integrity.

For his legal expertise and rapport with his fellows in the sector, Dr. Chow has been called on to help with several other important institutions — he is a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and is also a founder and director of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services. 周永健博士先後掌舵香港數一數二的大機構, 當中包括有過百年歷史的本地法律界組織,以及城 中規模最大的慈善公益資助機構,為這片土地的法 律及社會發展盡心盡力。他畢生熱愛法律與賽馬, 但影響力和貢獻卻遠超法庭和馬場。

周博士是香港聖貞德中學校友,不論為人處世 或經營事業,均奉母校校訓「公民責任」為座右銘。 他畢業後負笈英倫,入讀寄宿學校,隨後於曼徹斯 特攻讀牙醫本科課程,但很快發現從事牙科行業並 非其真正志趣。向來醉心成為律師的他,遂毅然轉 投英國倫敦的法律學院,追逐夢想。

1979年,他考獲英格蘭及威爾斯執業律師資格, 並加入一家國際律師事務所,其後因工作緣故回流 香港。

在香港法律界打拼逾16年,周博士在距離香港 回歸這個歷史性時刻前一個多月,以47歲之齡接任 香港律師會會長。早於1994年已是律師會轄下多個 委員會成員的周博士,一直服務至2018年才退下火 線。

周博士擔任會長的三年間,成功協助香港法律 界與內地同業建立持久夥伴關係,擔當連接兩套不 同法制的橋樑角色,影響深遠。他勞心勞力,毋懼 風塵僕僕,多番率領律師會會員北上交流,足跡遍 及20多個內地城市,為兩地法律界長期合作奠下基 礎。周博士為人親和,善於社交,曾接待無數內地 法律界人士來港受訓或參與研討會,幫助他們學習 管理律師事務所之道,以及如何以專業、正直守信 的態度提供法律服務。

周博士既擁法律專長,亦有業界人脈,不少重 要組織都力邀他加入出謀獻策。現時,他除擔任中 國人民政治協商會議全國委員會委員,也是香港專 業聯盟發起人之一,並出任董事至今。 In recent years though, the institution he has been most closely linked with has been the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), the board of which he joined in 2002. Twelve years later he became Deputy Chairman and he ascended to the position of Chairman in 2018.

The owner of two racehorses in Hong Kong and a couple of broodmares in Australia, Dr. Chow's interest in the Club was spurred by his love for horse racing, something he inherited from his father, also a racehorse owner and a member of the Club as early as in 1950s. But Dr. Chow soon found that the sport was but a small part of the Club's works, alongside its social and charitable functions.

He steered HKJC through two particularly tumultuous years, negotiating the social disruptions of 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic the following year. Under his leadership, the Club made headway in giving back to society, setting a record high of approved donations of HK\$4.3 billion for 2018/19. Through its Charities Trust, the Club funded nearly 300 charitable and community projects that year to support charity work in four strategic areas, including youth, the elderly, sports, and arts, culture and heritage, meeting a broad range of community needs.

In his capacity as HKJC's Chairman, Dr. Chow worked closely with HKUST, which benefited from the Club's largesse of a \$1.9 billion donation for its establishment in the 1990s, and continuously for scholarships, research programs, and other initiatives. During his tenure, the Club approved a generous grant for the construction of the new 1,551-bed undergraduate hostel Jockey Club i-Village, which will become the campus' future living lab for innovative ideas in smart and sustainable living.

These are all part of what Dr. Chow says is the mission of HKJC, from which he stepped down upon turning 70 in 2020 — to work for the betterment of Hong Kong and to make the city more competitive globally.

Dr. Chow's honorary doctorate from HKUST is his second, following one from Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and other awards including a Roll of Honor award (2015) from the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Silver Bauhinia Star (2003) for his distinguished service in law and the public sector.

Chancellor, on behalf of the Council of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, I have the high honor of presenting to you, Dr. Anthony Chow, for the award of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*. 近年,與周博士關係最密不可分的機構,當數 香港賽馬會(馬會)。他於2002年晉身馬會董事局,12年 後成為副主席,2018年更上層樓,接掌主席一職。

周博士在香港及澳洲分別育有兩匹賽馬及多匹 母種馬。其父親亦是位馬主,早於上世紀50年代已 是馬會會員。受父親影響,周博士從小便熱愛賽馬 運動,因此對馬會事務格外感興趣。但周博士很快 便領略到賽馬只佔馬會工作的一小部分,機構兼具 社會服務及慈善功能。

擔任主席期間,他帶領馬會走過兩個艱難年頭: 先是應對2019年的社會事件,再於翌年處理新冠肺 炎疫情帶來的重重挑戰。在其領導下,馬會積極回 饋社會,在2018/19年度核准批出43億港元捐款,創 下歷年新高,又透過轄下慈善信託基金,在同年資 助幾近300項慈善及社區項目,大力支援四大策略 範疇的慈善工作,包括青年發展、長者服務、體育, 以及藝術、文化和古蹟保育,弘濟時艱。

科大與馬會淵源深厚,大學在90年代成立之時, 已蒙該會慷慨撥款19億元作建校經費,其後亦持續 獲捐助獎學金、研究項目及其他活動。周博士出任 馬會主席後,與科大同樣合作無間,於任內核准批 出巨額善款,資助大學興建配備1,551個本科生宿位 的賽馬會創新學生村,作為校園未來實踐創新意念 的生活實驗室,以開拓智慧及可持續生活模式。

如周博士所言,馬會視促進香港發展、提高其 全球競爭力為已任,而以上種種善舉,皆為馬會履 行使命之明證。2020年,他亦踏入從心之年,卸任 馬會主席一職。

科大乃繼香港都會大學後,第二所向周博士頒 發榮譽博士學位的學府。此外,周博士在法律及公 共事務領域貢獻卓越,屢獲各界表揚,包括在2015 年榮膺香港律師會「年度榮譽律師」,以及於2003 年獲特區政府頒授「銀紫荊星章」。

大學校監,本人謹代表香港科技大學校董會, 恭請閣下頒授法學榮譽博士學位予周永健博士。