



胡應湘爵士  
Sir WU Ying-Sheung Gordon

工程學榮譽博士  
Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa*

Not flinching from making tough and far-sighted business decisions on a daily basis, Sir WU Ying-Sheung Gordon has a well-earned reputation as a property mogul while remaining a diligent engineer at heart. The founder and chairman of the Hong Kong-based investment holding company Hopewell Holdings has made significant contributions to the development of vital infrastructure in Hong Kong, the Mainland, and elsewhere over the past few decades, but to this date, he is still very much a hands-on entrepreneur. This is evident in his continued fondness for working on designs himself, using his preferred tried-and-tested technology of T-square and pencil.

Through Hopewell Holdings, which he founded in 1972, he has been transforming the built environment for more than half a century, spurring the economic development of his native Hong Kong and a renaissance China, with a string of ambitious projects and buildings.

Having spent his entire childhood in the Wan Chai district, Sir Gordon has for his whole life remained close to the neighborhood. He would later help renew it, notably with the development of the iconic Hopewell Centre in 1980, which was for the next ten years Hong Kong's tallest building. The 66-storey tower continues to be Hopewell's headquarters where Sir Gordon works every day in his office on its top floor.

After graduating in 1958 with a degree in Civil Engineering from Princeton University in the US, Sir Gordon set about building a successful empire, even though things only began to take off about ten years later, when he managed to pay off debts by selling off the taxis in the family firm on hire purchase to its drivers. This experience led him to believe in the value of being a financier as well as providing services.

One of the earliest entrepreneurs to support China's economic reform, Sir Gordon regards bringing infrastructure to China after its opening up in 1978 a particular highlight of his career. Driven by his axiom of providing services at the most competitive price, he forged a fruitful partnership with mainland authorities as Hopewell built superhighways connecting the cities of the Pearl Delta region, which in turn helped propel the meteoric rise of Shenzhen as an economic hub. Sir Gordon also built power stations in southern China and played a key role in the development of Chinese business and tourism, building one of the first five-star hotels in

胡應湘爵士身為享負盛名的地產大亨，無懼每天作出艱難和獨到的商業決定，而骨子裡仍然藏著工程師那份辛勤努力的本質。他一手創立以香港為基地的合和實業有限公司，並擔任公司主席，數十年來致力在香港、內地及其他地區拓展重要基建，建樹殊深。時至今天，這位企業家仍然親力親為，拿起他認為最可靠、最準確的丁字尺及鉛筆，埋首工程設計的工作。

胡爵士於1972年創立合和實業後，興建一連串大型工程項目及樓宇，幫助其土生土長的香港以及當時復蘇中的中國大力發展經濟，同時改變了兩地的建築環境逾半個世紀。

胡爵士童年在灣仔度過，自此與這個社區結下不解緣，一直致力更新區內建設，居功厥偉。於1980年落成的合和中心，正是當中的明證。此地標建築樓高66層，雄踞香港最高建築物寶座長達十年，至今仍是合和實業總部所在地，胡爵士亦如常每天於頂樓辦公。

胡爵士畢業於美國普林斯頓大學，1958年取得土木工程學士學位後，即立志建立其事業王國。約十年後，展翅騰飛的時刻來臨，胡爵士當時將家族公司名下全數的士，以租購形式售予旗下司機，成功清還公司所有債務。此番經歷，使他體會到作為資本家以及為用家提供服務的重要性。

胡爵士是首批支持中國實行經濟改革的企業家。國家於1978年推行改革開放政策後，他即北上投資基建，創造出他其中一個事業高峰。他堅信「以最具競爭力價格提供服務」的理念，成功與內地當局建立合作關係，成果豐碩，例如於珠三角地區興建高速公路，連接區內各大城市，令深圳得以迅速發展成為區內經濟樞紐。此外，胡爵士不僅在中國華南地區興建發電廠，亦積極幫助內地開拓商業及旅遊業。於1984年建成、提供1,200個客房的廣州中國大酒店，更是當時全國首批五星級酒店之一。除了放眼祖國，他也是協助菲律賓擴充能源基建的重要人物，獲該國前總統拉莫斯先生譽為「指明燈」。

Guangzhou, the 1200-room China Hotel, in 1984. He was also instrumental in boosting the energy infrastructure of the Philippines, where he earned the moniker “the man who turned on the lights”, a compliment from the former Philippine president Mr. Fidel RAMOS.

There have been setbacks along the way, including an abortive rail project in Bangkok that was dogged by disagreements with local authorities in 1990s, but Sir Gordon has never dwelt on impediments, firmly believing in learning from one’s mistakes, or, if one is smart, from other people’s mistakes.

Sir Gordon has always placed a high value on education. In addition to establishing many scholarships to send mainland students abroad to study, he has also made major contributions to local universities and his high school, Wah Yan College. In 1990s, he also completed his pledge of US\$100 million to his alma mater Princeton University.

Sir Gordon’s sterling dedication to service has earned him numerous honors and awards throughout his life, particularly two knighthoods, one from Belgium and another from the UK, the latter of which a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George received from Prince Charles in 1997. He was also Hong Kong’s longest-serving member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, serving six terms spanning 30 years. His native city awarded him the Golden Bauhinia Star in 2004. Other accolades include honorary citizenship from a number of cities, including his ancestral hometown of Huadu in Guangdong. He has also been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 9th Asia Business Leaders Awards in 2010, “Man of the Year” by the International Road Federation in 1994, and International CEO of the Year 1996, awarded by George Washington University in the US.

Sir Gordon is no stranger to honorary doctorates either, having amassed nine from institutions in Hong Kong, the UK, and Canada. This latest, from HKUST, is his tenth such honor and testimony to his influence beyond Hong Kong and his inspiration for a younger generation of engineers and entrepreneurs in the region.

Chancellor, on behalf of the Council of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, I have the high honor of presenting to you, Sir Gordon Wu, Chairman of Hopewell Holdings Ltd., for the award of Doctor of Engineering *honoris causa*.

一路走來，胡爵士在事業上不無風浪。上世紀90年代，由於與曼谷地方政府意見分歧，於當地推動的高架鐵路計劃最終夭折。但從不執著於挫折的他，深信能以自己的失誤為師，也認為能以他人的失敗經驗為鑑才是聰明的做法。

胡爵士向來重視教育，除了成立大量獎學金協助內地學生負笈海外，亦大筆捐助本地大學及他曾就讀的華仁書院。他言出必行，兌現捐款承諾，於90年代向母校普林斯頓大學捐出一億美元。

胡爵士盡心盡力投入公務，貢獻良多，一生所獲榮譽及獎項不計其數，更曾獲封爵兩次，包括獲比利時國王冊封爵位，以及於1997年獲查理斯王子授予英國聖米迦勒及聖佐治爵級司令勳章。他是中國人民政治協商會議全國委員會中歷來最資深的港區成員，共出任六屆委員，任期橫跨30個寒暑。2004年，胡爵士獲出生地香港頒授「金紫荊星章」。他亦榮膺多個城市的榮譽市民，包括其故鄉廣東花都。其他獎項方面，除了在2010年獲第九屆亞洲商業領袖頒獎禮頒發「終身成就獎」，胡爵士亦曾於1994年當選國際道路聯合會「年度風雲人物」，以及於1996年獲美國喬治·華盛頓大學頒發「最佳國際行政總裁」大獎。

胡爵士亦是大學學位頒授典禮的常客，先後獲香港、英國及加拿大九所學府授予榮譽博士頭銜。這次獲科大表揚，授予其第十個榮譽博士頭銜，正正說明了其影響力跨越香港，並為區內新世代年輕工程師和企業家帶來啟迪。

大學校監，本人謹代表香港科技大學校董會，恭請閣下頒授工程學榮譽博士學位予合和實業有限公司主席胡應湘爵士。