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"I will retire when I make my first ten million." That statement made in the flush of youth turned out to be shooting below target, way below target. Dr Tam's first ten million dollars came within two years of his virgin venture into business. Looking back, it is but a mere comma in his life. The community as a whole is grateful that he did not come to a full stop at his first financial milestone, for what followed is a series of pulsating exclamation points.

Perhaps more than most, Dr Tam stands for growth, growth of the personal kind. He believes that if one keeps growing as a person, one keeps growing in prosperity and responsibility. True to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, Dr Tam has never looked back after his first millions. In fact, moneymaking has taken a back seat to his priorities in life. These days, what is on his mind is making an impact, and making a difference to the lives of people in his community.

For a man who is barely out of his forties, Dr Tam has a wealth of wise sayings, always a sign of a thinking man, always a sign of precocious wisdom. Another saying that is constantly on his lips is this: "Society does not embrace a man simply because of his material success. I have spent half a lifetime chasing that. Now what I care most is making sure that what is earned is used wisely and well. Society has made an investment in me. It is time it collects a decent return from humble little me."

This is an inspirational thought coming from a man who has tasted success early. At the tender age of 24, he partnered his brother and a friend to set up a joint venture, after scraping together \$200,000. This maiden venture says a lot about Dr Tam. Trained in IT with a bachelor's degree from the Chinese University (with a subsequent doctorate in the same discipline from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Dr Tam's first runaway success is a digital product, an electronic dictionary with the catchy name of "Instant-Dict". His nimble mind quickly identified an unmet need and parlayed it into a wild business success. This hand-held electronic device has made him instant millions and turned the product into a household name. That was in 1989. By 1993, his company Group Sense (International) Limited, with him as Chairman, was listed on the local stock exchange. With that he reached the pinnacle of success as a 29-year-old Johnny-come-lately entrepreneur. Since then, his company has reached further into the digital market by producing Personal Digital Assistants, Smart Phones and other high-end products whose list of clientele includes such blue-chip multinationals as Sharp, Toshiba and Nokia. The cornerstone of Dr Tam's commercial success has always been unassailable quality in products and services. That is the unalterable article of faith that underlines all his business operations.

Less well-known but no less significant is another corporate creed he espouses: Dr Tam's willingness to share his business success with his employees, many of whom now have a stake 「我賺取了一千萬後就會退休。」這一句譚偉豪博士在他的青蔥歲月拋下的豪言壯語,早已被他的成就拋離甚遠 — 他的一千萬,已早於他在年輕時創業兩年就賺取了。這段創業史不過是他人生中的一個逗號。令我們額手稱慶的是,他賺取了第一桶金之後,並沒有為自己的事業寫上句號 — 因為隨之而來的,是一連串激勵人心的驚嘆號!

對很多人來說,譚博士體現了個人的進步及發展。 他相信,只要我們不斷奮進,我們的生命就會愈來愈富 足,而降之於我們身上的大任就會愈來愈多。衣食足, 知榮辱。譚博士在取得他的第一桶金之後,早已把目標 提升到超逾物質的層次。賺錢,對譚博士來說,已經不 重要。今日,他希望能在社會上發揮更大的影響力,改 善別人的生活。

剛剛四十出頭的譚博士,常有雋言慧語,是一位愛思考及愛追求智慧的人。其中一句他經常掛在嘴邊的「慧語」是:「人們不會單單因為曉得賺大錢而得到社會認同。我已經用了半輩子追求財富。現在我轉而追求把所賺取的,用得其所。社會養我、育我,於我有恩,現在正好讓我這個無名小子,好好地回饋社會。」

對於少年展翅的譚博士,他的這一番說話,確實發人深資。於中文大學取得電腦資訊學士學位的譚博士(他並於其後取得理工大學同一學科的博士學位),在二十四歲的早慧之年,用二十萬元與其兄長及友人合組公司。他憑著敏銳的商業觸覺,洞察到市場的需要,推出了全港首部電子辭典「快譯通」,產品在推出後銷量迅速躥升。

這部手提電子產品,為公司提供了不少可觀進賬,亦令「快譯通」成為家傳戶曉的品牌。時值一九九年,譚博士擔任主席的權智(國際是一九九三年,譚博士擔任主席的權智(國際是無不不可,在香港上市。數年前在電子產品界仍然是無時之一,在香港上市。數年前在電子產品界仍然短短時士,就憑藉著這部「快譯通」,在極短短時士,在極短短時士,在極端之中,在一場上,對達型手機等,對達對象包括國際之一。 個人數碼助理及智慧型手機等,對售對象包括國際之一。 個人數碼助理及智慧型手機等,對應到所以 個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等,說售對象包括國際監察 不可以 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的理及智慧型手機等, 一個人數碼的是 一個人數码。

譚博士另一項較少人知悉的成功「秘技」,是他樂 於與下屬分享公司的收成。今時今日,不少權智員工, in his business as its shareholders. This is a radical departure from the normal practices and policies among local corporations. But Dr Tam is a firm believer that for business prosperity staff loyalty and longevity is the best policy. In spreading the largess of his success, he ensures its continuance.

Awards, honors and other forms of social recognition come early to Dr Tam. In 1997, Group Sense (International) Limited won the Government's "Hong Kong Award for Industry: Technological Advancement". That same year, he was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Persons". Earlier in 1992, he was rightfully honored as the "Young Industrialist of Hong Kong". A string of public service appointments soon followed. Dr Tam is currently the Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Productivity Council. He also sat on the Commission on Strategic Development, and is Vice Chairman of the Pearl River Delta Council. He represents the Information Technology Sub-sector on the Election Committee for Hong Kong's Chief Executive. A host of other organizations also benefit from his participation as an active member, including the Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee, the Small and Medium Enterprises Committee. In 2001-2003, he assumed the chairmanship of the Hong Kong Electronics Industry Council. As a business leader who is energetically promoting technological cooperation between the Mainland and Hong Kong, Dr Tam serves as a member of the Guangdong Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Dr Tam is a rare industrialist who proudly declares that "thinking is my hobby". Without creativity, he says, we will all atrophy prematurely." This is why he refuses to be tied down to the operational nitty-gritty, preferring to spend his time more profitably in forward thinking and strategic planning. He believes that Hong Kong's future prosperity will depend largely on the creativity quotient of its people. That is why he has trained his sight on the next big project: upgrading the English proficiency of young locals as a tool in global citizenship and creative entrepreneurship. With larger social concerns, it is not surprising that he is seriously canvassing the possibility of entering electoral politics as a candidate in the upcoming Legislative Council elections. For one thing, he believes that being on the campaign trail is a humbling experience that is beneficial to those who wish to serve. It keeps them grounded in here-and-now concerns of their constituents. With politics in his blood and societal improvement on his mind, Dr Tam is one business leader with a bee in his bonnet. The man who gave us the ubiquitous electronic dictionary is now itching to give us something with an even bigger impact: Good English as a means of effective economic and global participation. It is precisely the prescription this world city needs. It is another unmet need that is crying out to be met, as local educators await, with abated breath.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you, on behalf of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Dr Tam Wai-Ho, Chairman of Group Sense (International) Limited, for the award of Honorary Fellowship. 經已手持公司股份,成為權智的股東。譚博士相信,公司必須好好培養員工的忠誠和歸屬感,員工才會留下來,努力為公司效勞;而兩露均施,讓員工分享到公司成功的好處,才可以確保公司業務,得以持續發展。譚博士的這種做法,與大部份本地公司的營運方式,實在大相逕庭。

譚博士可算是一位鳳毛麟角的傑出工業家,以「慣於思考」為傲。他說人類假若缺乏創意,發展早就無以為繼。所以,他拒絕煩瑣的日常事務,把時間用於具前瞻性的策劃和發展。他相信,香港的前途將會繫於港人的創意智商。所以他的另一個大計劃將會是協助本地年青人舉好英語,以增強他們的創意,及讓他們真正成為「地球村」一份字。

為了更好地實踐社會使命,譚博士甚至積極考慮參加於九月舉行的立法會選舉。贏輸還是其次,譚博士說,政治選舉的洗禮,往往令人變得謙卑,讓人時刻警惕要緊貼選民的脈博,凡此種種,都是對企業領袖上佳的鍊歷。聽其言,觀其行,譚博士對政治的熱衷,對人民福祉的關注,早已溢於言表。譚博士下一項大突破,我們屏息以待。

副監督先生,本人謹代表香港科技大學,恭請閣下頒授榮譽大學院士予權智(國際)有限公司主席譚偉豪博士。