



石禮謙議員
The Hon Abraham Shek Lai-him

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Heritage may sometimes appear to be given short shrift in Hong Kong's ceaseless drive to move onward. But for Mr Abraham Shek Lai-him, working to bring past and present together to create a dynamic future for the city has been a lifetime quest.

For Mr Shek, a respect for tradition arrived early on in life. Born in Macau, he was educated at Queen's College, one of Hong Kong's oldest schools, and then at Australia's long-established University of Sydney. As an undergraduate, he took history as his major. This inspired a long-term perspective that he has subsequently brought to bear on Hong Kong's outlook in areas from business to politics. He also undertook a Diploma of Education, gaining insight into the significant role that education plays in shaping individuals and consequently the citizens they become.

When he returned to Hong Kong in 1970, the city was bouncing back from the disturbed times of the late 1960s. Opportunities abounded for a person with vision and drive. As Hong Kong's manufacturing and export-oriented economy thrived, Mr Shek entered the shipping field. He stayed in the sector for 14 years.

In the 1980s, Mr Shek took on the role of Commercial Director of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, before moving in 1987 into the land and real estate development sector with which he is most associated today. In his 13 years as chief executive of the Land Development Corporation – the forerunner of the Urban Renewal Authority – Mr Shek was a prime mover in kick-starting Hong Kong's bid to renovate and renew its city landscape. In this role, his love of history and his experience of the business world could be united on a mission that promised to improve housing and the environment in Hong Kong through urban renewal. More than 20 projects were started and 15 completed under his watch, including the revitalization of Western Market in Sheung Wan and Yuen Po Street Bird Garden in Mong Kok. Other projects enabled people to be rehoused from cage homes to flats with separate toilets and air conditioning, an outcome he found especially satisfying.

香港發展蓬勃，在急速的步伐下，有時可能忽略了保存傳統文化遺產。然而，石禮謙先生卻融匯古今，為香港創造充滿生氣及活力的未來，並以此為他的職志。

石先生自幼重視傳統，他在澳門出生，就讀香港的傳統名校皇仁書院，再負笈歷史悠久的澳洲悉尼大學。他在大學期間主修歷史，培養出遠大目光，並以此應用於香港的商業和政治發展。他及後修讀教育文憑，明白教育對個人及作為社會公民的影響至為深遠。

石先生於1970年回港，本港正從六十年代末的動盪時期逐漸恢復。對一個充滿理想與衝勁的年輕人來說，香港機遇處處。當時，製造業和出口業是本地的經濟支柱，石先生選擇投身航運業，在業內服務了十四年。

到了八十年代，石先生加盟九廣鐵路擔任商務總監。及至1987年，他轉投土地及地產界發展，一直至今。他曾擔任土地發展公司（市區重建局前身）行政總裁達十三年，領導香港的城市重建與活化都市面貌。在任期間，石先生結合個人對歷史的熱忱和商界經驗，透過市區重建，改善香港的居住和城市環境。在他的領導下，土地發展公司開展超過二十項工程，其中十五項在他任內完成，包括上環街市及旺角園圃街雀鳥花園等活化工程。其他項目包括將居民從籠屋安置到設有獨立洗手間和空調的單位，令他感到尤其欣慰。踏進2000年，他以地產及建造界功能組別晉身立法會，迄今十四年。他曾表示自己對公務的承擔是為了子孫和港人的下一代謀福。此外，他亦為多家企業的董事會成員。

From the start of the new millennium, Mr Shek entered the Legislative Council, where he has represented the real estate construction functional constituency for the past 14 years. He has said previously he does so on behalf of the generations to come - his own grandchildren and those of Hong Kong people as a whole. In addition, he sits on a number of corporate boards.

He was made a Justice of the Peace in 1995, and received a Silver Bauhinia Star in 2007 and a Gold Bauhinia Star in 2013 for his distinguished public and community work.

Mr Shek's early interest in education took root. He has served as a member of the HKUST Council, the University's top governing body, and is currently a member of the HKUST Court, the supreme advisory body. His belief and support for the University and its work was demonstrated when he introduced a Private Member's bill into the Legislative Council leading to a smooth passage for amendments to the HKUST Ordinance in 2008 - changes that have led to elected staff and student members in the Council. Furthermore, he has used his knowledge and experience to contribute advice related to campus design.

Among the major benefits of education, according to Mr Shek, is its capacity to unite disparate streams of thought in pursuit of shared goals. He is keen to foster this capability and to see young people take on board the need for compassion and a humanistic approach if social development is to be sustained. Meanwhile, his own blending of history, business and politics, and dedication to community service, serve as an outstanding real-time example of what can be achieved by those with a willing heart.

石先生於1995年獲委任為太平紳士，2007年獲頒銀紫荊星章，並於2013年獲頒金紫荊星章，表揚他對公眾與社會事務的貢獻。

石先生對教育一直抱有熱誠，曾經擔任本校校董會成員，現為本校顧問委員會成員。憑藉對科大的信念和支持，他在立法會提出私人法案，使科大得以於2008年順利修訂大學條例，讓職員和學生透過選舉進入校董會。此外，他更在科大的校園設計，貢獻個人的知識和經驗，為大學提供不少寶貴意見。

石先生認為教育的其中一個裨益在於能夠集思廣益，達致和衷共濟。他期望年青人本著關顧之心及人民精神，持續發展社會。石先生貫徹歷史的價值，實踐至商業和政治，使其融會貫通，並全心全意服務社會，為有志貢獻社會的人樹立榜樣。