



馬墉傑先生  
Mr Maximilian Yung Kit Ma

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To Mr Maximilian Y K Ma, the idea of public service and “what you can do for others” is too often overshadowed these days by “what can you do for me”. Instead of just complaining, though, he has been working hard to bring about change by setting a sparkling example. For Mr Ma, Chairman of Lee Heng Diamond Group, his family business, and Founder and Chairman of innovative MaBelle Jewellery retail chain, is most definitely a contributor beyond the call of duty.

The list of government advisory boards, charitable committees and arts organizations that Mr Ma has sat on or led in the past four decades is long and impressive, ranging from the Law Reform Commission to the Hong Kong Community Chest. He was Chairman of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals before he was 30, and his MBE honor earned as early as 1984. To make sure he always gives his best, he makes it a principle not to accept more than three appointments at one time, and never to be an absentee member, mentally as well as physically.

Such a proactive, participatory outlook became part of Mr Ma’s life at a young age. When Mr Ma was just 12, his rags-to-riches entrepreneur father suddenly died. This called for growing up fast. Unable to fit into the rigid rote-learning education of 1960s Hong Kong, at 14, he was sent to the International School of Geneva, the world’s oldest international school. There he was fortunate to experience a truly diverse and equalizing education with classmates whose parents often worked for the United Nations. He then went to Boston University to study one of the few Bachelor of Business Administration programs available at that time. Forty years ago last month, he returned to work at Lee Heng and make a difference to Hong Kong.

Together with his elder and younger brothers, Mr Ma went on to expand the family enterprise to a group of 12 companies. When he started MaBelle in 1993, offering the first fixed-price, affordable, diamond shopping experience to consumers, it was both an act of faith in Hong Kong’s future and a joyful celebration of disruptive derring-do. The chain now has over 90 stores in Hong Kong and Mainland China, along with an e-commerce reach of 65 countries and 700 cities.

今時今日，許多人只在乎「人人為我」，但馬墉傑先生認為，「我為人人」才是服務社會應有的心態。與其只懂抱怨，馬先生以身作則，以期為社會帶來正面改變。作為家族企業利興鑽石集團主席、鑽飾連鎖店瑪貝爾創辦人兼主席，馬先生為社會所作出的貢獻相比其偉大的事業成就，有過之而無不及。

過去四十多年，馬先生曾參與及領導多個政府諮詢委員會、慈善委員會及藝術團體，令人佩服，從法律改革委員會至香港公益金，應有盡有。他頭角崢嶸，未及三十之齡已擔任東華三院主席，並早於1984年獲頒MBE勳銜。他只會同時接受最多三份公職，目的只在竭盡所能履行公職，全心全意服務社群。

馬先生從小已培養出積極主動的性格。他十二歲那年，白手興家的馬父突然辭世；痛失至親迫使他在頃刻間長大。由於難於適應香港六十年代時側重背誦的填鴨式教育制度，他十四歲時被送往日內瓦國際學校升學。該校是全球歷史最悠久的國際學校，不少學生均為聯合國職員的子女，他於是有幸體驗真正多元及強調平等的教育。他考上美國波士頓大學，修讀當時方興未艾的工商管理課程。四十年前，他回歸利興，並為香港帶來轉變。

兄弟同心，其利斷金。馬氏兄弟攜手合作將家族企業拓展成為擁有十二間公司的集團。馬先生於1993年創辦瑪貝爾鑽飾店，首創固定價格交易，以消費者可負擔的價錢，為他們帶來不一樣的選購鑽飾體驗；在當時而言，這不但是對香港未來投以信心一票，更以突破傳統的方式打開嶄新局面。時至今日，瑪貝爾在香港和國內擁有逾九十家門市，電子商務更遍布全球六十五個國家和七百個城市。馬先生最初與科大結緣，就是成為科大顧問委員會委員。他深入認識科大的教研工作後，對之感到興致勃勃，於是協助引入善

Mr Ma's first connection with HKUST was as a Court Member. Enthused with what he learned about the University's education and research, he helped bring in donations to support HKUST development. He became Chairman of the University Council's new Institutional Advancement and Outreach Committee from 2010-2016. One major initiative was the launch and initial sponsorship of the well-received HKUST Science-for-Lunch talk series, where faculty members share their latest research insights in regular downtown gatherings. Mr Ma also willingly provided his professional expertise and personal insights as an Advisory Committee Member of HKUST Business School's Tanoto Center for Asian Family Business and Entrepreneurship Studies and as a guest speaker for programs from Leadership and Public Policy Executive Education to the student leadership REDbird Award.

Other contributions also show the consistent inclusiveness of his vision, encompassing those struggling to cope as well as those seeking to soar. They involve several major healthcare advances, including building Hong Kong's first pediatric intensive care unit; fundraising for a new facility for The Christian New Being Fellowship Youth Drug Rehabilitation Center in Sai Kung; and dreaming up the HKCoCoon incubator, a co-working space for entrepreneurs, mentors and investors to foster Hong Kong start-ups. His son and daughter are the co-founders.

Such vision is assisted by being a voracious reader and a constant quest for greater understanding be it discussing the meaning of the rule of law, pondering the history behind Michelangelo's David, traveling overseas – he has visited 80 countries but always sees Hong Kong as home – or fathoming out why he is here and how best he can use his time to help.

In the end, he believes, you always gain more than you give from service contribution and that is why his life has been so fulfilling. For such a remarkable ability to see beyond the here and now, and willing provision of knowledge, energy and support to assist others from all walks of life, HKUST is delighted to honor Mr Maximilian Ma today.

款支持大學發展。他於2010至2016年間出任科大校董會轄下大學拓展及外展委員會主席，期間建樹良多，包括創辦及率先贊助極受歡迎的科大 Science-for-Lunch 午餐座談會，讓教授定期於市中心舉行的聚會中分享其最新的研究成果。作為科大商學院陳江和亞洲家族企業與創業研究中心顧問委員會成員、公共政策領導人才培訓課程及培訓學生領袖才能之紅鳥計劃等項目的講座嘉賓，馬先生不吝分享其真知灼見及個人經驗。

馬先生視野廣博，熱心助人求善求進，其貢獻之鉅，無出其右。當中包括數項如成立全港首個兒科深切治療部的重要醫療發展、為基督教得生團契青少年戒毒中心於西貢籌建新設施，以及啟發浩觀的誕生，浩觀由他的子女創辦，為創業家、導師與投資者提供共用工作空間，扶植初創公司成長。

馬先生博覽群書，總愛尋根問究，探索各樣新知識，從有關法治的討論，到思考米開朗基羅創作大衛雕塑的歷史背景，以至縱橫世界各地，均有濃厚興趣——他曾經遊歷八十個國家，卻一直視香港為家——他深入探究自己扎根香港的緣由，思考如何善用自已的時間，促進香港福祉。

馬先生深信「施比受更為有福」，正因如此，他的人生既充實又豐盛。馬壩傑先生目光超卓，為啟導後學貢獻自己的知識與心力，殊堪表揚。