

夏理遜先生 Mr John B Harrison

榮譽大學院士 Honorary Fellow of HKUST

Attaining a successful career for oneself is often challenging enough. So a life audit is certainly in order when you not only help steer your accountancy firm to a major role in the development of the world's most impactful economy of modern times but also enable thousands of young people to achieve success in your profession and beyond. For Mr John Harrison, a leading performer in Big Four multinational KPMG's story in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the region over the past three decades, having a good head for figures was just the beginning. It was how those figures added up to making an overall difference that mattered.

A degree in mathematics at Durham University in the UK led Mr Harrison toward accountancy and KPMG. After qualifying in London, after 7 years there he opted to move to Hong Kong, arriving with his wife in 1983. He had never been to Hong Kong before despite a father in the Royal Navy and a childhood spent in different locations. But the city quickly became home.

Professionally, it was perfect timing. With the Mainland China economic powerhouse barreling to marketization and internationalization, it is perhaps an understatement to say the firm's business was starting to boom. When Mr Harrison first came to Hong Kong, KPMG had around 700 staff. There were two in Mainland China, in a representative office in Beijing. By his retirement in 2010, there were around 10,000 employees in 14 offices across China in total.

Starting out with audit, due diligence, IPOs, and other advisory work, Mr Harrison became a Partner in 1987. Thirteen years on from his arrival in the city, he was elected Senior Partner. As such, he became Chairman and CEO of KPMG China and Hong Kong, and concurrently Chairman of KPMG Asia Pacific, from 2003-2009. He was Deputy Chairman of KPMG International from 2008-2010.

To recruit, develop and retain talent in a growth environment is a key business issue. But for Mr Harrison, who oversaw human resources for a time, it meant even more. Social and collegiate himself, and a firm believer in the training and character development provided by accountancy, he found it immensely rewarding to expand opportunities for graduates to reach their potential through the profession. Whenever possible, he would go out to universities in Hong Kong, including HKUST, to

人生要事業有成、功成名就,絕非易事。細看 夏理遜先生這位會計界翹楚的奮鬥事跡及成功故 事,實在為人樂道。他帶領其會計師事務所急劇發 展,時至今天,公司已在當代最具影響力的經濟體 中舉足輕重,同時啟迪無數年輕人在這門專業建立 自己的事業,飛得更高更遠。過去30年間,作為畢 馬威會計師事務所(四大跨國會計師事務所之一) 在香港、中國內地及區內發展的領軍人物,夏理遜 先生不單對數字觸覺敏銳,如何靈活遊走於數字 間,為社會作出正面影響,這才是成功關鍵。

夏理遜先生畢業於英國杜倫大學數學系,繼而 投身會計行業,並加入畢馬威。他在倫敦考取專業 資格後留英七年,及至1983年,他選擇與其愛妻來 港繼續打拼。雖然童年時曾隨任職海軍的父親飄泊 異鄉,卻從未踏足香港,甫抵達這陌生地,夏理遜 先生旋即決定扎根香港,以此為家。

夏理遜先生的事業可真佔盡天時之優,當時正值千載難逢的時機:中國內地經濟積極推動市場化 及國際化,畢馬威的業務方興未艾。夏理遜先生抵 港初期,該事務所約有700名員工,僅有兩人駐中 國內地北京辦事處。直至他2010年榮休時,畢馬威 已在全球設立14個辦事處,共約10,000名員工。

由初期負責核數、審查評鑑、公司上市及其他諮詢工作,夏理遜先生一步一步攀上事業高峰,1987年成為事務所合夥人。在港服務13年後,他獲委任為高級合夥人;在2003至2009年間,他擔任畢馬威中國及香港主席及行政總裁,同時兼任畢馬威亞太區主席。從2008到2010年,他出任畢馬威國際副主席。

要在日益增長的營商環境中招募、栽培及挽留 人才殊不容易,一度負責人力資源管理的夏理遜先 生卻認為,此項工作意義更為深遠。他八面玲瓏, 能言善道,深信會計工作有助培訓及陶造個性,他 樂於為初出茅廬的畢業生發掘機會,讓他們藉會計 專業盡展所長。他經常親赴香港各家大學,包括香 introduce the firm. He also set new trends, expanding target recruits from accountancy and business study majors only to any graduate with the caliber to succeed. In Mainland China, it proved one of the most satisfying aspects of his career to leave behind a network of partners where originally there had been none.

Even in retirement, he has continued to help others grow, bringing his professional outlook as well as his accountancy and corporate governance skills to a portfolio of independent non-executive directorships. When you are asked to take up such a role, it is because you have shown yourself worthy to serve as an objective voice in board discussions and a fearless champion of governance and performance. That he has been tasked with this responsibility by some of Hong Kong's leading firms, including AIA Group Ltd, Cathay Pacific Airways, and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, is a measure of the regard he commands at the highest levels of the buiness community.

The University Council, which Mr Harrison joined in 2008, seeks people of similar caliber. And, like fellow awardee Ms Anita Fung, his presence proved a valuable addition for oversight of our accounting and reporting as well as our governance. He first served HKUST on the Audit Committee and later became the University Treasurer, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Human Resources Committee as well as chairman of the boards of Trustees of our superannuation funds and a member of The Standing Committee. With his enthusiasm for learning and development, he saw contributing to HKUST as a good match and a way to help more young people thrive through ensuring a solid financial and corporate governance footing for the University to keep moving ahead. Now an Honorary Court Member, he is looking forward to further input.

In recognition of his career in KPMG in Asia John was awarded the Freedom of The City of London in 2015 by the Honorable Livery Company of Chartered Accountants.

As John is happy to suggest to those starting out in accountancy and other fields, make sure you do what you enjoy. Never presume you know everything - even when you rise to senior management - always be prepared to listen and learn. Have a global view of life in order to respect and have tolerance toward others' views. Above all, make time and be prepared to contribute and get involved in the future.

As an exemplary contributor to the future of his profession, young people's lives, and this University, we are delighted to honor Mr John Harrison today.

港科技大學,介紹畢馬威會計師事務所,並開創新風,將招聘對象由主修會計學或工商學的畢業生擴展至任何具備成功條件的學生。從前,該事務所在中國內地並無合夥人,但在夏理遜先生用心栽培及提攜之下,新加入或晉升至合夥人的後進日益增加,成為他事業上最自豪的成就之一。

夏理遜先生退而不休,仍繼續熱心服務社會, 以獨立非執行董事身份,為多家公司貢獻其專業觀 點、會計及企業管治知識。要在董事會討論中表達 客觀意見,以及勇於大力推動良好管治和運作,方 能顯示擔當此崗位的價值。他獲香港多家頂尖商業 機構,包括友邦保險控股有限公司、國泰航空公司 及香港交易及結算所有限公司委以此重任,足證他 在商界德高望重。

科大校董會一直志在羅致此等人才,2008年,獲夏理遜先生加入。一如另一位榮譽院士馮婉眉女士,他為監管大學的帳目、匯報及企業管治作出實責的貢獻。他初期參與科大核數委員會的工作,其後更曾出任大學司庫、財務委員會主席及校董會轄下常務委員會委員。由於一直熱衷於學習及培訓,他認為服務科大正中下懷,並深信確保大學擁有穩健財政基礎及良好管治,才得以繼續發展,有助培育更多後進。他現為顧問委員會榮譽委員,期望為大學作出更多貢獻。

為表彰夏理遜先生對畢馬威亞太區貢獻殊深, 他於2015年獲倫敦特許會計師同業公會授予倫敦城 自由獎。

他寄語準備投身會計業及其他踏足社會的年輕 人:要肯定自己在做喜歡的工作;即使已晉升為高 管,仍要虛懷若谷,謙卑自持,樂於聆聽及不懈學 習;要高瞻遠矚,推已及人,尊重及接納他人的觀 點;而最重要的是,樂意為未來貢獻自己的時間與 心力。

夏理遜先生為其專業的前景、年輕人前途及本 大學均貢獻良多,科大今天特地在此予以表揚。