



夏雅朗博士
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Sometimes we hear about enterprising youngsters of a tender age, but Dr Aron Harilela certainly holds the record for the youngest person ever to start his life in business. It so happened in 1975 that his grandmother passed away on the day of the Holiday Inn Golden Mile's opening and his father stayed home to mourn her. But he sent ahead little four year old Aron to replace him at the ribbon cutting ceremony and he – carefully copying what the adults were doing – managed it with great dignity. From that point on, he was never in any doubt that as an adult, he would carry on running the family business.

At the age of 13, Aron was sent to study in Britain. As someone with a wide interest, he chose to study law and politics for his undergraduate degree, rather than something related to business. He graduated with an honors Bachelor's degree and stayed on at the University of Hull, England, to do a PhD in political philosophy. But, with his future duties in mind, he also put in time to understand the hospitality business and worked in room service, the kitchen, restaurants and housekeeping during his studies. This stood him in good stead when he took up his fulltime position with the company.

Today, Dr Harilela is the Chairman and CEO of Harilela Hotels Ltd, overseeing hotel operations in Southeast Asia and Europe, and is in charge of acquisitions for the privately owned Harilela Group. He joined the group in 1994 in Britain and returned to the Hong Kong headquarters two years later. He closely worked with his father for nearly 20 years, officially taking over from him in 2000. In his expert care are 14 hotels dotting the map of Asia and two recently opened hotels in London and New York, signifying the expansion of the Group's footprint beyond its home market. Dr Harilela is also a non-executive Chairman of Burson Marsteller in Hong Kong.

The roots of the Harilela family business date back to the beginning of the last century. The family full of interesting history, which left present-day Pakistan first to go to China in 1922 and then to Hong Kong in 1934, is widely known and respected for their generosity. Growing up in a large household where close to 100 of his relatives all lived together, Dr Harilela had absorbed the family ethos and became an advocate and contributor to society himself.

年輕有為的傑出企業家俯拾皆是，但若說起以有史以來最年輕之齡踏足商界者，夏雅朗博士肯定當之無愧。1975年，金域假日酒店開幕當天，夏博士的祖母與世長辭，他的父親深感悲痛，留家守喪，憑弔至親。當時年僅四歲的小雅朗臨危受命，代父出席開幕剪彩儀式。他一絲不苟地模仿身邊成人的舉動，小小年紀就展現大將之風，順利完成儀式。自此，他與商界結下不解之緣，對自己成年後繼承家族生意滿懷抱負。

13歲時，夏博士負笈英國。他對追求知識充滿熱忱，從他選擇入讀法律及政治學系，而非商科可見一斑。他取得榮譽學士學位後，並繼續於英國赫爾大學攻讀政治哲學博士學位。然而，他不忘自己肩負傳承家族志業的責任，課餘時熱心學習經營酒店業務，默默耕耘，更曾於客房送餐部、廚部、餐廳及房務部工作，對多個範疇均瞭如指掌，為日後全職投身家族企業奠定穩固基礎。

時至今天，夏博士出任夏利里拉酒店有限公司的董事主席兼行政總裁，執掌東南亞及歐洲的酒店業務，負責私營夏利里拉集團之收購工作。他在1994年加入集團在英國的辦事處，兩年後回歸香港總部繼續打拼，與父親緊密合作近二十載。2000年，他正式繼承父親衣鉢，成為集團的領軍人物，現時集團在亞洲設有14間酒店，最近更成功拓展海外業務，於倫敦和紐約開設兩所新酒店，成績斐然。此外，夏博士亦是香港博雅公關公司的非執行主席，卓然有成。

夏利里拉家族的商業王國可追溯至上世紀，其家族歷史為人稱道。1922年，其家族離開巴基斯坦的家鄉，遠赴中國，最後在1934年扎根香港，慷慨貢獻本地社會，廣受稱頌。夏博士成長於大家庭，與近百名成員同住，家族樂善好施的傳統對他影響深遠。因此，他致力貢獻社會，不吝為推動社會發展出謀獻策。

His devotion to Hong Kong led him to take on the role of Chairman of the 25-member General Committee of The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and contribute to this governing body, responsible for the policies and fiscal management of the most important business association in Hong Kong.

As a tireless supporter of Hong Kong's businesses and economy, he also held the prominent position of Investment Promotion Ambassador for InvestHK in 2011, successfully showcasing the territory as an appealing destination to overseas investors. He is a Board Member of the Hong Kong Community Chest, one of Hong Kong's outstanding charity organizations, the Honorary Secretary for the Business and Professional Federation, a non-partisan think tank and a Voting Member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. In 2014 he was appointed by the Government of the HKSAR as Justice of the Peace.

Dr Harilela is an ardent supporter of tertiary education providing leadership in Hong Kong as well as on a global playing field. His particular vision is to show in our divided world that businesses can benefit society and work in unison toward the same constructive goals. His ambition also extends to nurturing the next generation of business leaders in Hong Kong and overseas. He made a generous donation to King's College in London, UK in support of setting up their Business School.

His local contributions have been recognized by the tertiary sector several times. A strong supporter of HKUST, he served on the Court of the University for over 10 years, contributing with his broad experience to this supreme advisory body and full-heartedly promoting the University's interests and raising funds. He is now an Honorary Court Member. He was also a Member of HKUST's Institutional Advancement Outreach Committee for four years, his contributions touching upon university development, stakeholders' engagement and fundraising. The Harilela family is an active donor of HKUST, and donated a professorship of \$5 million in 2012, and a scholarship fund of \$1 million in 2004. As an exemplary philanthropist, passionate supporter of education and teaching and learning at this University, we are delighted to honor Dr Aron Harilela today.

夏博士熱心回饋香港，他擔任香港總商會常務委員會主席，領導委員會內25名成員。他亦是理事會會員，為這個在香港舉足輕重的商會制定有效的政策和財務管理。

縱然一身多任，夏博士對促進香港商務及經濟發展永不言倦。他在2011年擔任香港投資推廣署投資推廣大使，成功向海外投資者展示香港營商環境的吸引力。此外，他亦積極履行社會責任，擔任香港其中一個最傑出慈善機構——香港公益金董事會成員、香港工商專業聯會榮譽秘書長，以及香港賽馬會遴選會員。2014年，他獲香港特區政府委任為太平紳士。

夏博士運用多年來累積的領導能力，矢志推動香港以至全球的高等教育發展。他高瞻遠矚，希望向充滿分歧的世界展示企業能為社會帶來裨益，並為實踐相同的目標而齊心協力，造福人群。他亦熱心栽培香港及海外的商界領袖，並曾慷慨捐助英國倫敦國王學院，以支持他們設立商學院，薪火相傳。

他對香港的貢獻屢獲高等教育界認可。作為香港科技大學的忠實支持者，他服務大學顧問委員會超過10年，毫無保留地分享其專業知識及經驗，為科大的最高諮詢組織作出重大貢獻，並全心全意宣揚科大理念並籌募資金。他目前為顧問委員會榮譽委員，更曾擔任科大大學拓展委員會成員達四年之久，致力推動大學發展、與各持份者交流及籌款，使大學獲益匪淺。夏利里拉家族多次慷慨捐助科大，2004年捐助100萬港元成立獎學金，並於2012年捐資500萬港元設立冠名教授席。夏雅朗博士樹立模範慈善家的榜樣，並一直熱心支持科大的教學及發展，科大今天特意在此予以表揚。