

Appendix

PolyU Honorary Graduates



The Hon Mrs Laura CHA SHIH May-lung, *GBM, GBS, JP*

Mrs Laura Cha Shih May-lung is Chairman of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd and a member of the Hong Kong-United States Business Council. She is also an Independent Non-Executive Director of Ant Group Co., Ltd., a Senior International Advisor of Foundation Assets Management Sweden AB and a member of Sotheby's International Advisory Board. In addition, she is also Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Council of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and a Director of the World Federation of Exchanges.

Mrs Cha has extensive experience in the financial services sector in both Hong Kong and Mainland China. She was the first, and to-date, the only person outside Mainland China to join the Central Government of the People's Republic of China at the vice-ministerial rank when she was appointed as Vice Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission in January 2001. She served in that position until 2004. Mrs Cha worked for the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong from 1991 to 2000, becoming its Deputy Chairman in 1998.

Mrs Cha was a member of the Executive Council of the Government of Hong Kong from 2004 to 2022. She was also Chairman of The Financial Services Development Council of Hong Kong from January 2013 to July 2018, and Chairman of the University Grants Committee from 2007 to 2011. She was awarded a Silver Bauhinia Star in 2001, a Gold Bauhinia Star in 2009 and the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 2017 by the Hong Kong Government in recognition of her public service.

Mrs Cha obtained her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University in California. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University looks forward to deeper collaboration and dialogue with Mrs Cha to help take the University towards new horizons for the benefit of Hong Kong, the Nation, and the world.

The Hon Mrs Laura Cha Shih May-lung was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration by PolyU.



Professor GONG Qihuang

Professor Gong Qihuang, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is an optics expert who has long been engaged in cutting-edge research on nonlinear optics and spatiotemporal small-scale optics. He has made systematic innovative contributions from the aspects of material properties, new effects and applications. He has received awards such as the Second Prize of the National Natural Science Award, the First Prize of the Beijing Science and Technology Award, the First Prize of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Progress Award, and the Prize for Scientific and Technological Progress Award of the Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation. His research results have been selected three times as being among the “Top 10 Scientific and Technological Advances in Chinese Universities”.

Professor Gong was elected as a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2013 and a member of the World Academy of Sciences in 2018. He was elected as a fellow of the Institute of Physics, UK (2007), Optical Society of America (2010), and International Society for Optics and Photonics (2018).

Professor Gong has worked in administrative positions for many years, gaining rich theoretical knowledge and practical experience in higher education administration. Since June 2022, he has served as the President of Peking University and the Dean of the Graduate School of Peking University. In October 2022, he was elected as an alternate member of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Professor Gong currently serves as the vice-chairman of the International Commission for Optics (ICO), a standing committee member of the China Association for Science and Technology, and the vice-chairman of the Beijing Association for Science and Technology.

Professor Gong Qihuang was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by PolyU.



Mr Xiaojia Charles LI, SBS

Mr Xiaojia Charles Li is the Founder and Chairman of Micro Connect and the Chairman of Micro Connect Macao Financial Assets Exchange (MCEX). He was formerly the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) from January 2010 to December 2020. Under his visionary leadership, HKEX accomplished many significant milestones in its history, notably the acquisition of the London Metal Exchange in 2012, the launch of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect cross-border trading scheme in 2014, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect in 2016, Bond Connect in 2017, and the Listing Reforms in 2018. These strategic initiatives were pivotal in strengthening Hong Kong's position as a prominent international financial hub and an initial public offering centre.

Prior to joining HKEX, Mr Li served as the Chairman of JP Morgan China and the President of Merrill Lynch China. Earlier in his career, Mr Li practiced law at Brown & Wood and Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Asia Business Council and was a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from January 2018 to January 2023. He received the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2020 in recognition of his contributions to Hong Kong's financial services development. Mr Li earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Xiamen University, a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Alabama, and a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Mr Li share a common vision of advancing the socio-economic development of Hong Kong.

Mr Xiaojia Charles Li was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration by PolyU.

Professor XU Ningsheng



Professor Xu Ningsheng, an academican of The Chinese Academy of Sciences, graduated from Sun Yat-sen University in 1982 and later received his PhD degree from the University of Aston in the United Kingdom. He returned to his home country as a professor at his alma mater, Sun Yat-sen University in 1996 and was promoted to the position of President in 2010. In 2014, he moved to Fudan University, Shanghai, where he assumed the position of President until his retirement in 2021. A Changjiang Scholar, Professor Xu requested universities to “shoulder the important responsibility of scientific and technological innovation entrusted to them by history”. He also encouraged universities to collaborate with overseas top-tier institutions on various educational endeavours. An internationally renowned researcher, he has been involved in vacuum nanoelectronics for a long time and was the Director of the State Key Laboratory of Optoelectronic Materials and Technologies. He has also played a pivotal role in the 973 Programme, 863 Programme, 13th 5-Year Plan, and various projects supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

A prolific author, Professor Xu has published more than 400 papers in prestigious journals both at home and abroad, and has authored a number of books, and has been granted more than 60 patents. He is actively involved in many international academic associations and has been honoured with many professional titles. He has received numerous awards including the esteemed Second-Class State Natural Science Awards. Under the leadership of Professor Xu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has embarked on a number of academic and research collaboration projects with Sun Yat-sen University and Fudan University respectively with promising results.

Professor Xu Ningsheng was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by PolyU.



Professor ZHONG Nanshan

Professor Zhong Nanshan, an academican of The Chinese Academy of Engineering, graduated from the Peking University Health Science Center in 1960 and went to the University of Edinburgh and the University of London for further studies and research. Upon returning to China, he mainly engaged in clinical, teaching and scientific research on respiratory diseases. He is now a Professor of Internal Medicine at Guangzhou Medical University, the Director of the Guangzhou Laboratory, the Director of the National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Diseases, the Head of the Senior Expert Group of the National Health Commission, and a member of the World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Preparedness and Response.

A world-renowned expert in combating epidemics and an exceptional leading scientist, Professor Zhong spearheaded the battle against the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019. He has presided over the 973 programme, 863 programme, the 10th, 11th and 12th 5-Year Plan for Science and Technology Development, as well as key projects of the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

A prolific writer, Professor Zhong has published more than 700 articles in overseas journals. In addition, he has published more than 20 books and holds more than 60 patents. He actively participates in and has been awarded Fellowships by many international professional associations. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including The Medal of the Republic, the highest national honour, in 2020. With “To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind” as its motto, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University indeed shares the same education philosophy and humanistic values as Professor Zhong.

Professor Zhong Nanshan was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by PolyU.

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Page 6