

Mr Francis YUEN Tin-fan 袁天凡先生

Doctor of Social Science honoris causa 榮譽社會科學博士

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

-- Robert Frost, The Road Not Taken

Mr Francis Yuen Tin-fan is a widely-admired financier, entrepreneur and philanthropist whose unique personal journey charts Hong Kong's rise as a global financial centre. His public service and private contributions, given in concert with his wife Dr Rose Lee Wai-mun, have supported the development of higher education here and overseas.

Mr Yuen is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research and a member of the boards of trustees of University of Chicago, where he received his B.A. degree in economics in 1975, and Fudan University in his native Shanghai. He is currently Chairman of Ortus Capital Management Limited, Independent Non-executive Deputy Chairman of Pacific Century Regional Developments Limited, and an Independent Non-executive Director of Shanghai Industrial Holdings Limited and Yixin Group Limited.

Mr Yuen moved with his family to Hong Kong at the age of five and was educated at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, where he showed early promise in physics and mathematics. Following his graduation from University of Chicago in 1975, he returned to Hong Kong to teach economics at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

It was at this time that Mr Yuen took the first in a series of what could be described as counter-intuitive, pivotal decisions, choosing the commercial versus the expected academic path when in 1977 he joined the merchant bank Wardley, where he remained for seven years, eventually co-heading its corporate finance operation. His tenure at Wardley's coincided with the epochal opening of China's economy. In 1985, he moved to Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers Hong Kong as the investment bank's Managing Director, joining the main board in London in 1987.

In 1988, in the wake of the previous year's global markets crash, Mr Yuen was enlisted by the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (Exchange), becoming the youngest-ever CEO of a major bourse. With the support of his Chairman, Sir Lee Quo-wei, over the next three years Mr Yuen helped bring about the crucial reform of the Exchange, standardising the listing and regulation establishing securities of companies, trading systems and introducing advanced information technology, putting it firmly on track to global leadership. During his tenure he helped establish and was a founding director of Hong Kong Securities Clearing

Company Limited. Subsequently, from 1992 to 1994, Mr Yuen served as a member of NASDAQ's International Markets Advisory Board in the United States.

At this juncture, Mr Yuen again navigated a new route for himself. Rather than continue to work within the framework of large organisations, he chose a more enterprising and independent path as an active investor and rainmaker non pareil, and in the process would become a most innovative creator of value.

Mr Yuen's great insight at this time was to understand the enormous, untapped business opportunities in the Greater China region. Following the acquisition of a significant stake in Seapower International Holdings, he became CEO of the diversified group with investments and operations spanning cold storage, financial services and media. At Seapower, he acquired New Zealand Insurance, a relatively modest insurance business, and built it into one of the largest life insurance companies in Hong Kong. He subsequently negotiated the sale of the diversified company to Pacific Century Group, remaining Chairman of the rebranded Pacific Century Insurance, and serving as Deputy Chairman of Hong Kong-based Pacific Century Cyberworks (PCCW). The insurance business would later be profitably divested.

With PCCW having established itself through various ventures as a credible player in the global telecommunications and internet spheres, Mr Yuen helped lead its historic acquisition of Cable & Wireless HKT in 2000.

The new millennium has seen Mr Yuen apply his vision and formidable negotiating skills to philanthropy, specifically to education in Hong Kong and mainland China, playing a crucial role in the University of Chicago's decision to establish a campus in Hong Kong.

The FTFY Family Trust, established by Mr Yuen to benefit his and Dr Lee's various philanthropic projects, helped fund the construction of The Hong Kong Jockey Club University of Chicago Academic Complex and the University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Pokfulam. Mr Yuen and the Trust have endowed the University of Chicago with a number of prestigious professorships, fellowships, and scholarship programmes.

Dr Lee and the Trust have been major donors to the expansion of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) and contributors to the realisation of the original founders' vision and educational ideals. As an Adjunct Professor, Mr Yuen has served as a Panel Speaker in the HSUHK Industry Leaders' Chatroom Series and as a guest speaker at the School of Communication.

In 2021, the University named its South Campus "Yuen Campus" in honour of Mr Yuen's father, Mr Yuen Ping-to, who instilled in his family a passion for education, professional achievement and public service, and by the example of his own life and career, inculcated the values of prudence, diligence, and perseverance.

Chairman, Mr Francis Yuen is a distinguished business leader and has made sterling contributions to education and HSUHK, it is my privilege to present Mr Francis Yuen Tin-fan to you for conferment of the Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa.

> Citation written and delivered by Dr Tom FONG Wing-ho Vice-President (Organisational Development)

多年以後時光某處, 我會輕聲嘆息,幽幽敍述: 一片樹林分出兩條小路,而我—— 我踏上了較少人走的那條路, 於是,再來的一切都不盡相同。

-- 摘自羅伯特·佛羅斯特《未行之路》

袁天凡先生是廣受稱頌的金融家、企業家與慈善家,其成人、成才、成業之路,印證了香港冒升為環球金融中心的歷程。袁先生的個人成就顯赫,更與夫人李慧敏博士共襄善舉,熱心支持公益及本地和海外高等教育的發展。

袁先生是香港經濟研究中心的董事會主席,並為 美國芝加哥大學及中國上海復旦大學校董。袁先 生是泓策投資管理有限公司主席、盈科亞洲拓展 有限公司獨立非執行副主席,以及上海實業控股 有限公司及易鑫集團有限公司獨立非執行董事。

袁先生祖籍上海,五歲隨雙親來港定居,其後入 讀九龍華仁書院,數學及物理皆見天份。其後赴 笈美國芝加哥大學修讀經濟學,1975年畢業回港 於香港中文大學任教經濟學。

袁先生學而優則仕,1977年另闢蹊徑,毅然從大學轉投商界,嶄露頭角。他先加盟匯豐集團商人銀行「獲多利」,任職七年間聯席掌管企業資本市場融資業務,見證了中國劃時代的經濟改革、開放。1985年,袁先生改投「花旗唯高達證券」,出任常務董事,兩年後加盟倫敦董事會。

1987年,全球金融市場侘然巨變,一年後,時年僅35歲的袁先生臨危受命,獲邀加盟香港聯合交易所有限公司(聯交所),出任行政總裁,為環球重要交易所歷史上最年青的行政總裁。在聯交所主席利國偉爵士大力支持下,袁先生將聯交所主席利國偉爵士大力支持下,袁先生將聯交所主席利國偉爵士大力支持下,袁先生將聯交所在國際市場重遭等之間基礎。袁先生又積極推動成立香港中央結算有限公司,並為首屆董事會成員。1992至1994年,袁先生出任美國納斯達克國際市場顧問委員會成員。

1994年,袁先生再為自己開拓新道路;他毅然離開大機構的框架,開展個人事業。他是積極進取的投資者,更是多謀善斷的造雨人,屢屢以嶄新的思維,獨佔鰲頭,創造豐厚的經濟效益。

袁先生獨具慧眼,看準大中華地區尚未開發的龐大商機,先拔頭籌。他收購海裕國際控股有限公司的重大權益,出任總裁,集團的投資和業務,涵蓋冷藏、金融服務及傳媒。任內他為海裕收購中小型的新西蘭保險,將其發展成為香港其中一家最大型的人壽保險公司。其後,袁先生將保險業務出售予盈科集團,更名為盈科保險,並擔任盈科保險的主席及電訊盈科副主席。盈科的保險業務後來高價分拆出售,獲利甚豐。

電訊盈科羽翼漸豐,穩取眾多投資項目,成為全球電訊與互聯網領域的佼佼者。袁先生於2000年為電訊盈科成功收購香港電訊,對香港意義重大。

袁先生積學善謀。千禧以降,他繼續熱心支持公益慈善,特別為內地及香港的教育作貢獻。美國 芝加哥大學在香港開設分校的決定,袁先生出謀 獻策,居功至偉。

袁先生成立袁天凡家族信託基金,以支持他和李慧敏博士的眾多慈善項目,其中包括捐款興建 位於薄扶林的香港賽馬會芝加哥大學教育綜合大樓,以及芝加哥大學袁天凡、慧敏校園。此外, 袁先生與其家族信託基金更捐助多項榮譽教授 席、院士及獎學金計劃。

李慧敏博士與袁天凡家族信託基金,多年來捐款 匡助香港恒生大學的拓展,並支持恒大實現及傳承創校先賢的願景與教育理念。袁先生慨允出任 恒大客席教授,過去數年曾為「恒大領袖開Live」 及傳播學院擔任主講嘉賓。

2021年,香港恒生大學的南校園正式命名為「袁炳濤校園」,以紀念袁天凡先生的父親。袁炳濤先生熱衷教育,著重專業成就與公益事務,為家庭灌輸優良觀念;他以身作則,事業有成,向後代諄諄訓示自律、勤奮與堅毅的價值。

主席閣下,袁天凡先生是傑出的商界領袖,為教育與香港恒生大學作出重大的貢獻。本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予袁天凡先生。

讚辭由副校長(機構發展) 方永豪博士撰寫和宣讀, 翻譯及外語學院副院長 陳嘉恩博士翻譯