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“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” wrote Charles Dickens in *A Tale of Two Cities*, an epic story of human endurance. Indeed, conflicts and challenges often disguise themselves in surprising ways, so do life’s blessings. Having braved some 11 crises of seismic impact over his 40-year career as an internationally renowned banker, Mr Peter Wong Tung-shun, Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, the Asia-Pacific arm of HSBC, believes that every crisis can be turned into an opportunity.

Mr Wong was HSBC’s Asia Pacific Chief Executive until July 2021. To the surprise of many, banking was not his initial choice. Straight out of school from Indiana University with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, an MBA in Marketing and Finance and an MSc in Computer Science, Mr Wong had a short stint as an educator in the United States before joining Citibank in 1980 to drive computerisation of its banking services. After close to two decades and a trail of star-studded achievements, he then moved to Standard Chartered Bank where his roles included Chief Executive of Hong Kong and Director of Greater China. Mr Wong joined The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited in 2005 as General Manager and Executive Director,

and was appointed Chief Executive in 2010, becoming the first Chinese to take the role. During his tenure, he had strengthened the bank’s position by sharpening its focus on Asia, by far its most successful region. This is but one of the many examples of Mr Wong’s outstanding business acumen and keen sense of global awareness.

Mr Wong’s contributions extend beyond his professional career. He has served and remained active on a number of government and regulatory bodies as well as industry associations. He has been Chair of The Hong Kong Association of Banks for four terms, Chairman of The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, President of The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, a Member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council’s Belt and Road Committee, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority’s Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, and a Board Member of the China Banking Association. He is also a member of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

With many accomplishments and accolades under his belt, Mr Wong has consistently remained refreshingly modest and down to earth. When invited to give his best advice to the younger generation, he would often emphasise the importance of education and

perseverance, perhaps not at all surprising given his humble beginnings. Mr Wong's parents came to Hong Kong as refugees from Shanghai in the late 1940s. The family had an extremely rough life for a while as he recalled. However tight the budget was, his father always made education a priority, right after food and lodging for the family of six. This has imprinted deeply in Mr Wong's mind, that "education is everything".

From April 2009 to February 2010, Mr Wong served as a Director of the Hang Seng School of Commerce (HSSC), the beginning of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong today. He continues to be a keen supporter of education and delivers guest lectures to university students and the wider community regularly. In the spirit of sharing and promoting communication, Mr Wong particularly enjoys engaging in candid exchanges with youth through opportunities such as mentorship programmes. Mr Wong believes that in the "VUCA" world of volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity, it is paramount that communication be bridged not only between individuals, family members, and generations, but also between industries and sectors so that all of us as a collective can have a clearer vision of what the future may bring and how each and every one of us in our individual roles may contribute to the whole.

Mr Wong is currently the Chairman of The Hongkong Bank Foundation, the charitable arm of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, which allows him to spend more time on the vulnerable groups in our community. Based on his experience, he strongly believes that more efforts should be paid on the younger generation and the elderly. He has driven different initiatives to support those most in need during COVID-19.

Mr Wong's perspective of this "team spirit" has its roots in his university days as a soccer player, as he had explained, "Soccer gave me a sense of belonging. I learned how to be part of a team, how to lose, get better and how to win again. That's something that's very important in today's business." Up to this day, sports remained an indispensable part of Mr Wong's wellness regimen. Insisting on swimming for 1,000 metres every morning to start his typically hectic day, and banking on diligence, humility, and willingness to communicate as attributes to any success, Mr Wong is an inspiration and a poignant reminder that the human spirit can be so much stronger than what we commonly believe it to be.

Chairman, in recognition of his contributions to the banking industry and his staunch support to education and development of the youth, I present Mr Peter Wong Tung-shun to you for conferment of the Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by
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「那是最好的時代，那是最壞的時代」，狄更斯在《雙城記》中如是寫道。小說描述了人類在逆境中的堅毅；既有遇衝突考驗之時，亦可安然化險為夷。是禍是福，往往出人意表。香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司，即滙豐集團旗下經營亞太區業務的分支，主席王冬勝先生是國際知名的銀行家，在其40多年的職業生涯中，曾經歷11次金融風暴或環球危機；與其論禍福，他更相信轉危為機。

2021年7月，王冬勝先生由香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司亞太區行政總裁一職退下來，並獲委任為主席。讓很多人意想不到的，他最初選擇的並非銀行業。王先生在美國印第安納大學先後取得電腦科學學士、市場及財務學碩士與電腦科學碩士學位，畢業後瞬即投身教育界。執教鞭一段時間後，在1980年加入花旗銀行，負責推動銀行服務電腦化。在該行耕耘近廿載，取得斐然成就，之後轉投渣打銀行，就任香港區行政總裁及大中華區總監等要職。2005年，王先生加入香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司，出任總經理兼執行董事，2010年更獲委任為行政總裁，是該行擔此要職的首位華人。他在任期間，帶領滙豐更聚焦於亞洲市場，鞏固了滙豐的地位，業績亦遠勝其他地區。王先生傑出的商業頭腦和敏銳的全球觸覺，由此可見一斑。

王冬勝先生在其本職以外亦貢獻良多，先後任職於多個行業協會以及政府及監管機構，仍然相當活躍。他曾四度任職香港銀行公會主席、香港總商會主席、香港銀行學會會長、香港貿易發展局一帶一路及大灣區委員會委員、香港金融管理局外匯基金諮詢委員會委員、中國銀行業協會理事會理事，現時亦為中國人民政治協商會議委員。

王先生成就出眾、榮譽繁多，卻始終謙卑自持、務實行事，作風與別不同。每當他受邀與年輕一代分享見解，便常常強調教育與毅力的重要。這或許與其成長背景有莫大關係。1940年代末，其父母以難民身分從上海來港。據他憶述，家中有段時間生活艱難竭蹶。惟不論經濟有多窘迫，王父都一貫以子女的教育為先，僅次於一家六口的食住所需。王先生從小受潛移默化，深悟「教育乃頭等大事」。

2009年4月至2010年2月，王冬勝先生擔任恒生商學書院（恒商）校董（恒商後來逐步發展為香港恒生大學），其後繼續熱心支持教育，不時向

大學生以至社會大眾講學。他本著分享和促進溝通的精神，特別喜歡藉師友計劃等機會與年輕人坦誠交流。王先生認為現今世界多變、難測、複雜、模糊，至關重要的是不僅個人、家庭及世代之間要建立溝通的橋樑，不同行業和領域之間亦然，這樣才能讓大家清楚未來大局，群策群力。

目前王先生擔任香港上海滙豐銀行旗下滙豐銀行慈善基金的主席，讓他有更多時間服務社區有需要的人士。他根據自己過往的經驗，相信應該更著力關顧年青人和長者。過去幾年疫情期間，他積極推動多個抗疫項目，解決弱勢社群的燃眉之急。

王冬勝先生能如是充份理解「團隊精神」之本，源於他在大學時代參加足球運動的經歷。他說：「足球給我團隊歸屬感，我學會如何當隊員，學會面對失敗，改善自己，重獲勝利。這在現今商業世界尤其重要。」時至今日，運動仍是王先生的重要養生之道。王先生堅持每天早上先游泳1,000米才開始忙碌的一天，堅信成功的關鍵在於勤奮、謙遜、願意溝通；也提醒我們，人類的堅毅精神，可以比我們所想要強大得多。

主席閣下，為表彰王冬勝先生對銀行業貢獻殊深，對培育青年始終不懈，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽法學博士學位予王冬勝先生。

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