

The Honorary Graduand: Mr Donald CK Tong

Doctor of Business Administration

I was born in Hong Kong and attended schools therein, including Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, a Jesuit secondary school.

I graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) degree, majoring in Economics, in 1983. I joined the Hong Kong Government immediately, working first as an Executive Officer on community work. I was appointed as an

Administrative officer in 1987 and served in the Hong Kong Government until my retirement in end

of 2020. During my days in the civil service, I attended one-year training course at Oxford University in 1988/89 and also undertook short training programme at Peking University under

sponsorship of the Hong Kong Government.

Throughout my 37 years of service in the Government, I was largely responsible for policy formulation and leading department operations in areas covering environmental protection, environmental hygiene, energy, coordination of public works and development of major infrastructure (e.g. the new airport, airport railway, suspension bridge), public and private housing,

labour, community and youth matters, trade, and transport. I had been appointed as heads of a

few policy bureaux and executive departments, serving as Commissioner for Labour (2014 - 2016); Permanent Secretary for the Environment cum Director of Environmental Protection (2016 -

2019); Permanent Secretary for Housing cum Director of Housing (2019 - 2020). I also worked for

some 12 years overseas in the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in the US and Canada, as

the Hong Kong Commissioner for Economic and Trade Affairs, USA, based in Washington, DC (2008-2014), and Director in Canada, based in Toronto, responsible for promoting economic and

trade relations of Hong Kong with the US and Canada.

Some of my key achievements in the Hong Kong Government included playing a leadership role in

the construction and publicity/PR promotion of the new airport commissioned in 1998 and related

projects in Hong Kong, promoting Olympism and organizing the Olympic Equestrian Competitions

in Hong Kong, overseeing construction and operation of waste and sewage treatment facilities for

the 7.5 million population of Hong Kong, and construction/provision of public housing for over 2.1

million residents in Hong Kong.

After retirement from the civil service, I was appointed as the Executive Director of the Vocational

Training Council (VTC) in 2022. The VTC, a statutory body subvented by the Hong Kong

Government, is the largest vocational and professional education and training organization in

Hong Kong, providing certificates/diplomas to higher diplomas and applied degrees for around

200,000 in-service workers/professionals, and students including some 40,000 full-time students

each year.

I was elected in 2025 to the Board of WorldSkills International, the global leader in skills education

and competitions. It amongst other things organizes the WorldSkills Competition, also hailed as

the “Skills Olympics”, every two years. WorldSkills Competition is the world’s largest international

skills event, aiming to promote competency standards and vocational education.

I am given the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2020 and appointed as Justice of Peace by the Hong Kong

Government in 2023 in recognition of my public service.