

HAPPIEST MAN OF SUCCESS

Distinguished
Alumnus



DR COLIN KO YIN LAM

1973 BSc Graduate

Beyond mortal souls and humanity, there I am standing above veils of clouds, where hustle and bustle are faraway, and stars are within reach. Entire landscape of Victoria Harbour can be seen at one glance, as I was waiting half anxiously and half excitedly to meet with a man that plays a decisive role in Hong Kong's land properties, Dr Colin Ko Yin LAM, the Vice Chairman of Henderson Land Development Co. Ltd.

'Greatest happiness can be found when you lend someone a hand.'

The sun had awakened from the freezing night and glazed the sky with a golden haze. Birds tweeted in a soothing tune. It's early dawn, when most are still wandering in their widest dream. Yet, in the midst of this graceful scenery, long shadow of a young boy was dragged through the yellow mud road, heading to somewhere with an oversized backpack.

"A child was walking to school, on his bare feet. Yet, he was holding a pair of new shoes on one of his hands, because he was afraid that his shoes would be torn," Dr Colin Lam elaborated the story

behind, "and to some students, the journey to school takes more than 2 hours, which means that many valuable study times were wasted in the travel between school and home."

Dr Lam therefore established Chi Wah Foundation and had founded a total of 35 schools in 6 provinces in China. "I suggested the schools to focus on hardware," said Dr Lam. Hardware included but not limited to sports ground, computers, library, swimming pool, teaching building and student dorms. "Having residential facilities for students on-campus is important, since it greatly saves travelling times for students to study." Through implementing these facilities and infrastructure of a school, students can have a better learning environment.

All students should be provided with equal opportunities to learn. "In one of my founded schools, the couple of a vice-principle donated most of their income to a student who cannot afford any tuition fees." This touched Dr Lam, which further encouraged him to found more schools in Mainland China. Perhaps Dr Lam cannot alter much on family backgrounds, but he had certainly given 'priceless' opportunities for young generations in rural areas to walk on their potential path of success.

Dr Lam believed that quality of people determined the strength and power of a country, while education was the only way to nurture the good qualities of people. "By understanding the meaning of life, our hearts are enriched with wealth." Culture and moral education in schools were therefore necessary.

Centennial Campus of The University of Hong Kong are no stranger to students and staff here, especially with Chi Wah Learning Commons. This shall be a place where creativities soar, where group collaborations happen, and where project deadlines are met. Modern technologies and facilities are provided in this state-of-the-art learning spaces, surrounded by an absolutely stunning view of Victoria Harbour. However, all these would not have been existed without the support from Chi Wah Foundation.

Dr Lam was devoted in supporting education, because he agreed that 'it takes ten years to grow a tree, but a hundred years to rear a person.'

The University of Hong Kong was once the cradle of this successful man, and much more down the road. During Dr Lam's undergraduate study, science education had shaped him in many ways unseen. "In science, logic is important." Dr Lam had emphasised a lot on the logically thinking during the interview, "science graduates are never stubborn, because we choose to use an objective mindset that respect the truth and nature."

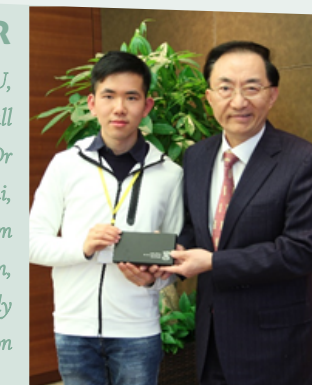
As one of the leaders in Henderson Land Development Company Ltd., Dr Lam always played down his own 'subjective' ideas and listened to his colleagues before expressing his own thoughts. Eventually, the best result can be achieved.

When asked on giving advice to undergraduate students, Dr Lam replied without a doubt, 'set your future targets wisely from the very beginning.'

"It's never too late to change when you finally figure out your ambitions." However, Dr Lam strongly recommended undergraduates to have a clear target regarding their future. In a speech by Dr Lam, he contended that an affirmed target propelled one to achieve. Great souls have wills, and weak souls have wishes.

STUDENT REPORTER

"Surprised and proud of Faculty of Science, HKU, because we have alumni as important leaders in all sectors of Hong Kong contributing to the society. Dr Colin Lam, being one of the distinguished alumni, plays a significant role in property developments. I am grateful to have this opportunity to interview Dr Lam, who patiently answered all my questions, not only about his university life, but also on societal issues on Hong Kong's land developments."



Jimmy Mak, BSc Student
(major in Biochemistry)

“Use an objective mindset to respect the truth and nature.”