

Speech by Dr. Cheng Hwei Shing

Good evening, Mr. C.H. Tung, Commissioner Yang Wenchang, Secretary General Zhao Guangting, Professor Lawrence Lau, Dr. Rayson Huang, Honourable Guests,

Thank you for coming to this book-launch ceremony today. As the editor of *C.Y. Tung Diary* and *The World of C.Y. Tung*, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts during the editing process.

Mr. C.Y. Tung was a world-renowned shipping magnate, an entrepreneur who established his business success out of nothing but his own intelligence and diligence. That was precisely all I knew about Mr. Tung before reading his diaries. A few years ago, I started to read his diaries, and to conduct careful editing on them. I also drew on ample relevant information. Then I came to have a glimpse of the history of China's maritime business. I slowly gained a fresh perspective on Mr. Tung's inner world and his legendary life. His diaries and articles impressed me most by his lifelong dedication to his career, as well as his quest of ideals. This in fact distinguished Mr. Tung from ordinary entrepreneurs.

At the age of sixteen, Mr. Tung embarked on his seafaring career. His first acquaintance with oceans and shipping promised to develop into a strong bond between his own career and national prosperity. When his career flourished, he further reinforced this bonding. Mr. Tung was a self-made man because he did not receive any formal higher education. Yet all his life he never stopped learning. He was well-versed in both Chinese and English. His intellectual breadth was marked by his professional knowledge and his passion for art. Together with this perpetual quest for knowledge, Mr. Tung was dedicated to the ideal of education for others. His manner and knowledge rendered him more a scholar than an entrepreneur.

Imbued with a profound sense of his Chinese heritage, Mr. Tung was a hard-working man with abstemious habits. He worked with joy and dignity. He always kept abreast of the times. His diaries reflected his keen vision and brilliant ideas. He placed great concern on both local and international affairs. He was highly vigilant, never dwelling on present peace and prosperity. He was good at grasping business opportunities and rectifying operating directions. These were the bedrock of his commercial accomplishments. To a certain extent, *C.Y. Tung Diary* is not only a portrait of his own career development, but also an epitome of China's maritime history and development.

Living overseas for most of the time, Mr. Tung's heart resided in his love of China. His diaries often revealed his support for national unification and his concern for China. He valued the warmth of friendships which spanned the globe. Many of his diaries reflect the friendship between Mr. Tung and world celebrities. His large circle of friends provided us with a new perspective to Mr. Tung's quests and concerns.

C.Y. Tung Diary and *The World of C.Y. Tung* officially come out today. I wish to thank the Tung family, especially Ms. Alice King, for her trust in me. I take my hat off to some people at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Dr. F.C. Chen and Professor Jenny So, the present and the former Directors of the Institute of Chinese Studies, kindly recommended me for this project and lent me support on the work. I am indebted to Dr. Steven Luk, Director of The Chinese University Press, for his guidance. Thanks go as well to Mr. Y.K. Fung, Mr. Kingsley Ma, Miss Angelina Wong and Miss Esther Tsang for their assistance. I am also grateful to Ms. Pansy Chiu of the Alisan Gallery, Ms. Carmen Yeung, Ms. Peggy Ho, Ms. Kathleen Mak, and Ms. Tung Shuk Ming of the C.Y. Tung Archive. Their toil has laid the foundation of this book. Many friends have generously and graciously contributed to this set of books. You all have my thanks. I have tried my best. Yet the errors in the books are laid the door of the editor.

From a personal aspect, this set of books is a turning point of my academic life. It is also going to be the basis of my forthcoming research. I am going to collect more information and enlarge the research scope, integrating the legacy of Mr. C.Y. Tung, China's maritime development, the rise of Hong Kong's post-war economy, and the changes of world politics. May I solicit your support and help here in advance.

Thank you for bearing with me. Thank you again for your company today.