

## Speech by Mrs. Alice King

Dear Guests and Friends,

On behalf of the Tung Family, I would like to welcome you to the official book launch ceremony of *C.Y. Tung Diary* and *The World of C.Y. Tung*.

It has been a long journey to get to where we are today. In fact, the family had hesitated over whether to publish our father's three-volume diary. As we all know, a diary is a personal record of one's life and feelings; it's only meant for oneself ... and I don't believe he had ever thought of having it published.

Yet, as we read his diaries and began to understand their deeper meaning and what they represented, we thought it was correct to share these experiences with a broader audience. My father, quite personally, catalogued the ups and downs of his own career which epitomized the arduous development of China's modern maritime industry. He had dedicated his whole life to the building of a strong shipping industry for China and fought strenuously to achieve this vision. His indomitable will was a common quality of entrepreneurs at the time ... and his zeal for national peace and prosperity was representative of his fellow man. In these aspects, the diary does not belong only to himself but to all who share these experiences, these traits and this vision.

We hope that the story of his life will be meaningful to people, especially the younger generation. His diaries reflect the plight of the Chinese during that chaotic era. It also illuminates the hardship of overseas Chinese like my father, their concern for the motherland and their passion for Chinese culture. We hope that the diary will enlighten young readers on the struggle and resilience of the entrepreneurs of my father's time, and give them the strength and confidence to feel truly proud of being Chinese.

As so many names of places and people's names were only mentioned in passing in his diary, I started to interview many of Father's friends, colleagues and business associates from around the world either by phone, mail or in person so as to get a better understanding of the events. Many of them even offered to write articles of great sentimental value. Unfortunately, we cannot adopt all of them in the book. The seventy some reminiscences and interviews (twenty-eight of them in English and Chinese), serve as a supplement to the Diary. Also included are some of his speeches, essays, correspondences, excerpts from newspapers and magazine as well as a bibliography. We hope the four-volume set which has taken more than three years to finish will provide a complete picture of not only his ideal, his contribution to shipping, education, the arts and culture but also of him as a man. It is meant to have historical value as well as of human interest.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the officiating guests: my brother, the Chief Executive Mr. C.H. Tung; Commissioner Yang Wenchang of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Professor Arthur Li, Secretary for Education and Manpower, he was the one who introduced me to Dr. Steven Luk, the Director of The Chinese University Press, who recommended Dr. Cheng Hwei Shing, my editor, a historian and a specialist in Republican China, for this project; Mr. Zhao Guang Ting, Secretary General of the Liaison Office; Professor Lawrence Lau, Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University for his support. A special thanks to Dr. Rayson Huang, the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong. He has very kindly altered his travel itinerary so that he can attend the book launch today. You have just heard his reminiscence on his friendship with my father.

Last but not the least, thanks to Father's good friend, Dr. J. S. Lee, another very good friend, and to many, many friends that have appeared in the diary and are present today and others who have flown in especially for the occasion. Their presence makes the gathering even more meaningful.

Thank you all.