

Oration for Professor Roy Chi-Ping Chung
To be held at 3pm on Wednesday 24 July 2019
delivered by Professor Chris Ennew

Vice-Chancellor

Our honorary graduand this afternoon is PROFESSOR ROY CHI-PING CHUNG, a highly regarded industrialist and philanthropist. Roy is also a Warwick graduate, a former member of our Council and an Industrial Professor at WMG. We are delighted to welcome him back today.

In 1985, with his business partner, Professor Chung founded Techtronic Industries (TTI) to produce rechargeable power tools. TTI grew rapidly and is now a multi-national enterprise, a global leader in the production of home improvement and construction tools. While you may not immediately recognise the corporate name of TTI you will certainly recognise its many brands including Hoover, Ryobi and AEG. Roy has been described as ‘a role model for Hong Kong enterprise’ and was named as Young Industrialist of Hong Kong in 1997, having built his business from the ground up. His education followed a similar route. Born and raised in Macau, he moved to Hong Kong before he had finished secondary school. He continued his education at night school, while working during the day as a warehouse keeper. He now holds an MSc in Engineering and Business Management, and a Doctorate in Engineering from Warwick, where he studied under Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, as well as a Doctorate in Business Administration from City University of Macau, and honorary degrees from a number of prestigious universities.

Having ‘come up the hard way’ himself, Roy has devoted his philanthropic activities to helping young people progress through education and training, including as long term President of the Boy’s and Girl’s Clubs Association of Hong Kong. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Bright Future Charitable Foundation, which helps young people into education, nurtures talent and sponsors students on life-changing experiences.. Roy has also been a keen supporter of Hong Kong’s Vocational Training Council (VTC) of which he is both an Honorary Fellow and, now, Chairman: in 2015, he established the Bright Future Scholarship, which supports outstanding VTC students. He attaches huge importance to the link between education and industry that is epitomised in VTC’s work. His own engineering training took place at WMG, where he experienced for himself the benefits of deep involvement with industry and the learning opportunities it offers students. Now an Industrial Professor at WMG and Chair of the WMG School for Professional Development in Hong Kong, Roy has supported WMG for many years, joining with the University at the Queen’s Anniversary Prize celebrations in London in 2009. Most recently, he travelled from Hong Kong in March, this year to give a moving address at the memorial service for WMG’s founder, Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya.

Roy is a high profile figure in Hong Kong, known as a pioneering industrialist with a strong sense of civic duty. He was Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries until 2013, and is Chairman of the Task Force on the Promotion of Vocational and Professional Education. He has been a Justice of the Peace and has served on a number of Hong Kong Government advisory committees. He served on the Council of Hong Kong PolyU as Deputy Chair. In 2014 he was named Industrialist of the Year and in 2017 was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government for distinguished service to the public and the community. He has been an active member of the Warwick alumni community, supporting the careers of young graduates who have returned to Hong Kong. He has also given his time and energy in support of the University itself. He was one of the first international members of our University Council and over the years has proved to be a real ‘critical friend’ – someone who tells us not what we might want to hear, but what we ought to hear. His wise advice has been invaluable to Warwick in the past, and will become even more important as we seek to deepen and enhance our international relationships and reputation.

Vice-Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, PROFESSOR ROY CHI-PING CHUNG.