

Dr Chung Sze-yuen witnessed Hong Kong's Journey of Reunification with China

During the historical development of Hong Kong, many dignitaries have left their mark. For contemporary Hong Kong, if we are asked to name one person who played a significant role in all the political, economic, educational and social aspects of Hong Kong, Dr Chung Sze-yuen would be the first to come to mind. While preparing for the revamping of our permanent exhibition, we were fortunate to get in touch with his family and eventually got his blessing to donate one lot of memorabilia for display in our renovated exhibition. To pay due respect to Dr Chung Sze-yuen, who just passed away, we are now sharing with you some of his donations, which provide a glimpse of Hong Kong's journey of transformation from a British colony to the first Special Administrative Region of China.

A native son of Hong Kong, Dr Chung was both an outstanding industrialist, starting off his career manufacturing flashlights, and a highly distinguished politician. Serving as the Senior Chinese Member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils, he played a crucial role in visiting Beijing and London to speak on behalf of the Hong Kong people during the Sino-British negotiations on Hong Kong's future in the early 1980s. After leaving the core of the Hong Kong government in 1988, Dr Chung accepted the Chinese invitation to be its advisor on Hong Kong affairs, and spared no effort in preparing for the 1997 handover. After the establishment of the HKSAR government, Dr Chung continued to serve as the Executive Council Convenor (which was equivalent to Senior Member before the Handover) until his retirement in 1999. He was closely and actively involved in the entire process of the transfer of Hong Kong back to China.

Last but not least, Dr Chung was a devoted educator. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the territory suffered from a lack of technicians to meet the growing needs of the booming manufacturing sector. Dr Chung was a driving force in the establishment of Hong Kong Polytechnic (now Hong Kong Polytechnic University) and Hong Kong City Polytechnic (now City University of Hong Kong). From the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, he was also involved in the founding of the third local university, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, to meet Hong Kong's growing technological needs. Dr Chung was indeed a key catalyst in the growth of Hong Kong's tertiary education.

Although Dr Chung Sze-yuen recently passed away, his career and many accomplishments for the betterment of Hong Kong will be told through the donations he has made to our museum. In the renovated permanent exhibition, we will shed light on the achievements of this veteran politician for the development of Hong Kong in every discipline.



Chung Sze-yuen meeting Chairman Deng Xiaoping in Beijing on 23 June 1984, expressing the concerns of the Hong Kong people about the 1997 handover at the time.



Souvenir plaque presented by the HKSAR Preparatory Committee to its member Chung Sze-yuen in 1997.



Portrait of Chung Sze-yuen, circa late 1970s.



Caricature of Chung Sze-yuen, presented by UMELCO, the Office of the Unofficial Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, in 1988.



Special supplement of the 93rd Honorary Degree Congregation of the University of Hong Kong in 1976, mentioning the conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Science on Chung Sze-yuen.



Souvenir trowel presented to Chung Sze-yuen at the completion of phase 1 of the Hong Kong Polytechnic Extension in 1976.