

CITATION

Award of the Degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* Mr (James) Eddie Liu, OBE OAM

Chancellor,

Mr (James) Eddie Liu has been Father of Chinatown in Brisbane since 1992 and Honorary Secretary of the Chinese Club of Queensland since its inception in 1953.

He has been an Honorary Ambassador for Brisbane since 1987 and an Executive Member of the Chinese Temple Society since 1966.

His substantial contributions to the community are evident in the award of Australian of the Year (Local Hero) Queensland in 2004 and an Australia Day Award – Senior Citizen of the Year in 2007.

Mr Liu began his working life in Australia as Secretary of the Chinese Seamen Union of Australia between 1942 and 1945 and following this, worked as a wholesale fruit and vegetable supplier between 1947 and 1959.

Over the next four decades, he developed, owned and part-owned businesses including restaurants, hostels, newsagents, market gardens and seafood outlets.

In tandem with his extensive business interests, Mr Liu has demonstrated great compassion and leadership in helping resettle many migrants from countries including Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Singapore in Australia.

He has been an active fundraiser for wartime refugees, the Australian Red Cross, the Mater Hospital Trust, the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital, the Leukaemia Foundation and the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

He has also been a driving force behind the promotion and preservation of Chinese culture in Brisbane, including the restoration of the city's first Chinese temple, "Joss House", at Breakfast Creek, which was first constructed in 1886.

In 1983, he was appointed to a committee to establish Chinatown in Fortitude Valley and on its opening in 1987, was appointed an Honorary Ambassador for the City of Brisbane.

Between 1988 and 1991, he was consultant to the Ching Chung Taoist Association of Hong Kong for the development of a \$3.5 million complex at Deagon including 50 aged home units, a Chinese temple and Chinese gardens.

He was involved in the building and relocation in Brisbane of the Chinese club premises at Auchenflower (1956), Deagon (1988) and Fortitude Valley (1995).

Today, the club has more than 3000 members from various ethnic communities.

His many acts of community service were integral to his award of an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1980.

He received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2001, and from that year until 2004, he served as Director of the Valley District Chamber of Commerce.

Chancellor, in recognition of his contribution to multiculturalism in Queensland, I present to you Mr Eddie Liu, OBE OAM, for the award of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* to which he has been admitted by the Senate of the University.