

*Citation read on the occasion of the granting of the degree of
Honorary Doctor of Laws to
Brian Lo
by the Senate of the University of Victoria
June 14, 2017*

Madam Chancellor, today I have the honour of introducing Mr. Brian Lo.

Mr. Lo is a man who, while avoiding the spotlight, has garnered recognition from premiers, mayors, business leaders, and community members alike. Today, I am proud, on behalf of the University of Victoria, to celebrate his achievements in community, commerce, culture, and education.

It is difficult to distill a common thread from the diverse accomplishments of Mr. Lo's remarkable career. However, I would summarize it this way:

Know where you came from; know where you want to go. Develop a plan to get there.

Mr. Lo worked in the banking industry for over 36 years in Hong Kong and in Canada. He sat on the BC government's Advisory Council on Multiculturalism. He served as a member of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver for 15 years, including time as director.

He has also been a great contributor to the University of Victoria, serving two terms on our Board of Governors. While on the board here, he helped found the Asia Partners Fund, which promotes and facilitates education and research through scholarships, student travel awards, international student recruitment and international research projects.

Emma De Vynck -- an Asia-Partners-funded intern for the UVic Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives -- had this to say about her experience living on the Thai/Myanmar border. She wrote how her time abroad led her to *humility*.

"Some of my interactions with students and others living along the border inspire thoughts on the word 'humble.' It is a gift to hear about others' lives, the daily stuff, the journeys, the hobbies, the families, the jokes... Something about space and reverence for who we are and how we constantly cultivate our dignity.

Humble. Where the grating of our noisy, chaotic, grasping ego breathes a sigh of resignation and folds into its softer, child-like form—its honest form."

One mandate of the Asia Partners Fund and also the Chinese Cultural Centre in Vancouver is Chinese language instruction. Research from around the world has shown the tremendous value of maintaining the heritage language of your family (whether it be Mandarin, Arabic, or any language) even after immigration. Grandchildren can talk to grandparents; general cognitive skills are enhanced. We must recognize that bilingual brains are more common on this planet than monolingual ones.

The Cultural Centre is a prime example of how community, culture and education can all come together.

But we all know that the implementation of initiatives, ideas, and dreams requires planning. And funding. Drawing on the knowledge, skills and experience accrued in three decades of work in the financial sector, Mr. Lo has been instrumental in guiding the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association, the Chinese Cultural Centre, and the University of Victoria. Commerce, culture, community and education are not separate strands, but rather are intertwined.

The University of Victoria has long been recognized as an important member of the Pacific Rim community. As a university, we have academic programs, international exchanges, research collaborations, and many other partnerships. Much of the credit here goes to the establishment of the Asia Partners Fund.

Over many years, Mr. Lo has recognized that a local community can build bridges to many other groups - locally, nationally and internationally - if given the proper resources. Of course, the resources are not an end in themselves. The key metric is what we achieve with them.

In looking back over all that he has realized, I hope Mr. Lo finds pleasure and comfort in recognizing that he has built bridges, and facilitated what is truly important to so many human lives: education, culture, and community. In his humility, he should be proud.

Madam Chancellor, I have the honour to present Brian Yin Hung Lo for the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Written and presented by
Dr. John Archibald
Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities
University of Victoria