

Lim Ming Yan

Provost, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Graduates and Graduands, Families and Friends, today the University will award an honorary degree to Mr Lim Ming Yan, who is President and Group Chief Executive Officer of CapitaLand Limited - one of Asia's largest real estate companies. Mr Lim came to this University in 1982 on a Singaporean Government Scholarship and enrolled on the BSc / BComm programme in the School of Mechanical Engineering. It may come as a surprise to him, or maybe even a shock, to know that in some dark, unfrequented basement room his records and those of his classmates still exist. From those records, we learn that he came to us with a set of A level grades that would, even after 35 years of grade inflation, have ensured his entry to the University, and quite probably one of our Excellence Scholarships. Those records show that he obtained consistently high marks throughout his course and that during the course of his studies he obtained vacation experience at Matthew Boulton Technical College gaining experience in the essential life skills of turning, milling, moulding, grinding and the like. He also took a course in Digital Systems, which was probably of more long term use. His record indicates that his tutor at that time, Dr Pham, regarded him as, and I quote, "a hard-working and serious student, quiet and pleasant in manner". He graduated in 1985 with a first class degree in Mechanical Engineering and Economics, and was awarded the Gilbert Walker prize, which in those days paid the princely sum of £25. He later went on to study the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School in 2002.

As I said, Mr Lim is now President and Group Chief Executive Officer of CapitaLand Limited. Headquartered and listed in Singapore, and operating in over 20 countries and 110 cities, CapitaLand's business is in real estate development and real estate fund management. Its core markets are Singapore and China, but the company is also engaged in Australia, Europe and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It was formed on November 2000, as a result of a merger of DBS Land and Pidemco Land and it is one of Asia's largest real estate companies. CapitaLand Limited is the parent company of The Ascott Limited. CapitaLand Limited's listed subsidiaries and associates include four real estate investment trusts (REITs), CapitaMall Trust, CapitaCommercial Trust, Ascott Residence Trust and CapitaRetail China Trust, as well as Australian property group Australand.

Mr Lim is currently a Director on the Boards of CapitaLand Limited, and CapitaMalls Asia Limited, CapitaLand's listed shopping mall subsidiary. He is also Deputy Chairman of CapitaMall Trust Management Limited, CapitaCommercial Trust Management Limited, CapitaRetail China Trust Management Limited and Ascott Residence Trust Management Limited. Mr Lim was the Chief Executive Officer of CapitaLand China Holdings Pte Ltd from November 2000 to June 2009, responsible for growing CapitaLand into a leading foreign real estate developer in China.

In China, he has been Vice-President at Huangpu District Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investments and the Deputy Chairman of Beijing Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investments since September 2005. He was presented the Magnolia Award by the Government of Shanghai Municipality in 2003 and 2005. In March 2007, he was presented the Outstanding Chief Executive (Overseas) of the Year 2006 of the Singapore Business Awards. He is a well-respected and influential leader in the region. Mr Lim is a Board Member of the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore, Director of Business China, an organisation that promotes bilingualism and biculturalism between Singapore and China, as well as Board Member of the Singapore Tourism Board. Over the last two years Mr Lim has supported Development, Alumni and Business Engagement division in the

University in the development of alumni and business networks within Singapore and the wider region and through his advocacy the University's position in the region has been significantly strengthened.

Over the 30 years since Mr Lim graduated the world has changed very significantly. The syllabus of the Digital Systems course in 1985 bears no resemblance to those of the computer systems modules of the present day. Mr Lim's tutor, Dr Pham has travelled around a number of institutions and has now, as Professor Pham, returned as Head of Mechanical Engineering. And for Mr Lim himself it has been a long journey from his time as a "hard working and serious student" and his vacation experience at Matthew Boulton Technical College to his current role in CapitaLand and to this ceremony. A journey marked by success and distinction and service to his country and his colleagues.

Provost, Pro-Vice Chancellor for his drive and determination over his career, and for his dedication and service, I present to you and to the University Mr Lim Ming Yan for the degree of Doctor of Social Science, Honoris Causa.