

Press Release

26<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**The Hon. Tsang Tak-sing, GBS, JP, Secretary for Home Affairs, joined hands with Professor Paul Kan, CBE, Comm OSSI, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, SBS, JP, Chair of Champion Technology Group and Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation to officiate the Opening Ceremony of the Imperial Museum, further promoting Peace and Harmony**



Professor Paul Kan and The Hon. Tsang Tak-sing GBS JP officiated the Opening Ceremony of the Imperial Museum. (a)

Peace and Harmony is a central concept in Chinese culture. Over the years, Professor Paul Kan, renowned connoisseur, Chair of Champion Technology Group and Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation, has been a forerunner in promoting this worthy concept. Between 2007 and 2011, Professor Kan sponsored and organized four “Peace and Harmony” exhibitions to showcase his personal collection of precious artifacts from around the world. As a response to the favourable public sentiment towards the exhibitions, Professor Kan founded the Imperial Museum to give these artifacts a permanent display venue. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013, Mr. Gerhard Alois Maynhardt, Consul General of Austria, Mr. Jaroslav Kantůrek, Consul General of the Czech Republic, Mr. Mohamed Fahmy, Consul General of Egypt, Mr. Arnaud Barthélémy, Consul General of France, Mr. Werner Lauk, Consul General of Germany, Ms. Alessandra Schiavo, Consul General of Italy, Mr. Noel Eugene Eusebio M. Servigon, Consul General of the Philippines, Mr. Jacky Foo, Consul General of Singapore, Mr. Juan Manuel López-Nadal, Consul General of Spain, Mrs. Rita Hämmerli-Weschke,

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The Hon Tsang Tak-sing GBS JP and Prof Paul Kan celebrated the ceremony with (from left) Mr. Werner Lauk, Consul General of Germany, Mr. Noel Eugene Eusebio M. Servigon, Consul General of the Philippines, Mr. Juan Manuel López-Nadal, Consul General of Spain, Mr. Mohamed Fahmy, Consul General of Egypt, Mr. Bela Nemeth, Head of Chancery of the Consulate of Hungary, Mrs. Rita Hämmerli-Weschke, Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Jacky Foo, Consul General of Singapore, Mr. Gerhard Alois Maynhardt, Consul General of Austria, Mr. Jaroslav Kantůrek, Consul General of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vincent Piket, Head of Office of the European Union, and Mr. Gilles Bonneville, Consul (Culture, Education & Science) of the Consulate-General of France. (b)

Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Vincent Piket, Head of Office of the European Union, officials from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, members of the art and culture community, and many honourable guests gathered at the Imperial Museum at St. John's Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong to experience the Museum's peaceful and harmonious atmosphere at its Grand Opening Ceremony, officiated by The Hon. Tsang Tak-sing, GBS, JP, Secretary for Home Affairs and Museum Founder Professor Paul Kan.

The Ceremony began with a welcoming speech by The Hon. Tsang Tak-sing, GBS, JP, followed by an inspiring address by Professor Kan. The two officiating guests then unveiled a red curtain covering the Museum's monument, signifying the official opening of the Imperial Museum, aiming at the continued promotion of peace and harmony, following the well-received signature exhibitions under "Peace and Harmony" in earlier years. Guests were then invited to join a guided tour led by Professor Kan, for an appreciation of the history, message, and the meaning of the exhibits.



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In co-operation with A Better Tomorrow, Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation, World Cultural Relics Protection Foundation, Institute of Agarwood, and the bequests of various collectors, the Imperial Museum will manage more than 200,000 artifacts and documents, which will be displayed on rotation. The Museum displays over 800 exhibits in two galleries: the Peace and Harmony Gallery, and the Aloes Gallery, on opening. The Peace and Harmony Gallery houses priceless treasures of exquisite craftsmanship. Among the imperial and noble artifacts of great cultural and historical value from the world are imperial robes, Kesi silk tapestries, Qing nephrite vats, and western home furnishings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Aloes Gallery highlights the historical origins of Hong Kong, as it was the planting of agarwood and the trading of incense that gave Hong Kong (the “Incense Harbour”) its name. Various precious art pieces and products of agarwood as well as related utensils are housed.

Professor Kan expressed his gratitude to all the guests who have come to share this special moment. “With the opening of the Imperial Museum, we are able to put many of the rare artifacts displayed at the previous ‘Peace and Harmony’ exhibitions at this permanent venue. I hope the Museum’s exhibits will carry on the promotion of the themes delivered by the ‘Peace and Harmony’ exhibitions: peace and harmony, wisdom and communion – and contribute to the development of a peaceful and harmonious society.”

## **Imperial Museum**

St. John’s Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong

Website: [www.imperial-museum.org](http://www.imperial-museum.org)

The Imperial Museum is a private museum, *not* a place for public entertainment. In consideration of security and public safety, visits are strictly by invitation and prior appointment of Friends of the Museum only, with priority given to schools and charities.

**Professor Paul Kan CBE, Comm OSSI, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, SBS, JP**

Professor Paul Kan is the Founder and Chair of three information technology companies (Champion Technology Holdings Limited, Kantone Holdings Limited, and DIGITALHONGKONG.COM) which are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Professor Kan is also Chair of *A Better Tomorrow, Chinese World Cultural Heritage Foundation*, and *World Cultural Relics Protection Foundation*. He is a fervent supporter of the information technology industry and is currently Chairman of *Hong Kong IT Alliance* and Honorary Chairman of the *Hong Kong Information Technology Industry Council*. As an aficionado and connoisseur of art and culture, Professor Kan is the Patron of *International Foundation for Art Research*,; Member of *Arts and Treasures Evaluation Committee, Ministry of Culture, China*, and Executive Committee Member of *Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation*. Professor Kan's contribution to the development of technology, arts, and culture has received worldwide recognition. He was appointed Justice of the Peace by the Government of the HKSAR in 2006; awarded Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2006; Commendatore dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana (Comm OSSI) by the Italian Prime Minister Hon. Romano Prodi in 2006; Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Government in 2007; and Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) by the Government of the HKSAR in 2009. In 2011, he was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Hungary in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region.

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For high-resolution images, please access:

- (a) [http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG\\_2247.jpg](http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG_2247.jpg)
- (b) [http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG\\_2271.jpg](http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG_2271.jpg)
- (c) [http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG\\_2281.jpg](http://203.77.128.40/~public/2013-02-22IMOpening/IMG_2281.jpg)