

# LEE KU-TAEK

## CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Chancellor, it is an honour to present to you for a degree of the University, Mr Lee Ku-taek.

Mr Lee was born in a small village called Kimpo, Kyonggi Province close to Seoul on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1946. Thus today we honour Mr Lee on his birthday. As an only son with two sisters, and with the strong support and guidance of his mother (following the death of his father), Mr Lee graduated from Kyonggi High School, renowned for its academic excellence in Korea. He then enrolled at Seoul National University where he completed his undergraduate degree, majoring in Metal Science and Metallurgy in 1969. In March of that same year, he was recruited into the first cohort of POSCO graduate employees. Since 1969, for 38 years, he has dedicated himself to service in POSCO and through POSCO to distinguished service that has been both national and international.

Mr Lee's illustrious career has combined distinguished achievement in engineering, industrial development and international relations. As POSCO's Chief Executive and Chairman, Mr Lee has been exceptional in the contribution he has made to public life in Korea and to industrial development in the region. Under his leadership, Chair Lee has seen the rise of POSCO to become a truly global company whose reputation in management and efficiency is a model in the field of iron and steel production. He has successfully engaged in the development of innovative technologies through active collaboration between industry, universities and research institutes.

In recognition of his remarkable engineering achievements, he has been honoured by Seoul National University and the National Academy of Engineering of Korea as one of Korea's 'Frontier Engineers'. As an industrial leader whose principles have guided POSCO's global expansion, Mr Lee was named 'CEO of the Year' in 2006 by *Korean Economic Daily*, one of the leading papers in Korea.

Known as a man "who melts steel with his smile", Lee Ku-taek has in fact forged strong bonds throughout the region, developing links between Korea and other nations of the region, particularly China, India, and Vietnam. The most important of these links has been to Australia.

Since 2002, Mr Lee has been Chairman of the Korea-Australia Business Council and for his service and commitment to the Korea-Australia relationship, he has been made an Honorary Companion of the Order of Australia. POSCO, the company that Mr Lee so ably heads, is Australia's single largest corporate customer importing both iron ore and coal.

In Lee Ku-taek's vision, trade, innovation and technological transfer are at the heart of the development of the Asian region and the prosperity of its populations. With his critical stress on the importance of innovation, he chairs the Korean Invention Promotion Association. Universities are a prime source of innovation. POSCO, in unique fashion, founded POSTECH in 1985 and has supported it to become one of the most prestigious research universities in Asia. It is through POSTECH that POSCO promotes international research collaboration. The POSCO TJ Park Foundation, which Mr Lee chairs, contributes to a broad range of projects for the promotion of cultural and environmental understanding in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Lee Ku-taek has, throughout his career, emphasized the importance of university education, fostered innovative research and demonstrated his commitment to the Asia-Pacific region by his energetic leadership. In recognition of his achievements, the Australian National University proudly honours him today.

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Lee Ku-taek, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his leadership in industrial development in the Asia-Pacific region, his commitment to the advancement of innovative research and creative collaboration between universities and industry, and his continuing promotion of international and regional cooperation, particularly his active engagement in fostering a close, productive relationship between Korea and Australia.

Professor Ian Chubb AC  
Vice-Chancellor  
The Australian National University  
15 March 2007