

## Halnan Lecture

### Knocking Down Barriers to Inclusive Healthcare



#### **Mr. Ricky MK CHU, I.D.S.**

B.S.SC. (HON), LLB (HON)

*Chairperson, Equal Opportunities Commission*

Mr. Ricky CHU Man-kin took the helm as Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) on 11 April 2019, leading and steering the operation of the Commission to enforce the anti-discrimination ordinances and promote the value of equal opportunities in Hong Kong.

Mr. Chu brings with him extensive experience in public service and proven management capabilities, having worked in leadership positions of different public organizations. He joined the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in 1978 as an investigator, and rose through the ranks to become the Assistant Director of Operations and Acting Director of Corruption Prevention. In 2010, he left the ICAC to join the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) as its Secretary-General, leading the Secretariat to assist Council members in monitoring and reviewing the handling and investigation of complaints against the Police.

Mr. Chu re-joined the ICAC in 2016 as the Director of Investigation and retired from the Commission in 2019. Throughout his career, he made distinguished contribution to the anti-corruption cause, and dedicated himself to upholding justice in society. He is also committed to the principles of fairness and impartiality in administering the law.

Mr. Chu graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor Degree in Social Science. He also holds a UK law degree.

As the sole statutory body in Hong Kong tasked with eliminating discrimination, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is committed to enforcing the four anti-discrimination ordinances currently in place – namely, the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and the Race Discrimination Ordinance – and identifying gaps in the existing law that continue to put stigmatised communities in a vulnerable and disadvantaged position.

One of the domains where prejudice and discrimination manifest themselves is the provision of goods, facilities and services, including healthcare. Drawing on recent studies released by the EOC, this lecture will highlight barriers to accessing healthcare services and facilities for ethnic minorities, persons affected by mental health issues, persons with physical disabilities, as well as victims of sexual harassment and assault. Examples and contributing factors of these obstacles will be examined, along with ways to enhance the inclusiveness of our local healthcare system. Ultimately, we need a combination of legal protection, administrative practices and public education in providing quality healthcare as a fundamental right, rather than a privilege for a limited few.