WAPOR
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH
asia pacific

Lifetime Achievement Award 2022

Dr Robert Chung

Dr Robert Chung is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (HKPORI), an Adjunct Associate Professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 1991 he established the Public Opinion Programme (POP) at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and began to study the development of public opinion in Hong Kong. In 2019, POP spun off to become HKPORI as an independent institute. Under his leadership, HKUPOP and then HKPORI has become well known for its impartiality and professionalism in collecting, studying, and interpreting public opinion in Hong Kong, and is a highly respected program in the region.

Prof Chung, or simply Robert to all the WAPOR friends, has been an active colleague at every conference and meeting, with his disarming smile and unassuming yet firm interventions. His track record of professional integrity and academic excellence is unquestionable. His list of achievements is endless. But what makes Dr Chung so special among his peers is his down to earth humility and never-ending desire to learn from everyone else. Everyone in WAPOR family would confirm that if there was a firm voice asking for the procedures to be properly followed in terms of running an organisation or running any poll, it has to be Robert's. It is his effortlessly caring, affectionate personality and transparent-to-the-core work ethics that has allowed him to navigate his research efforts in one of the most challenging times.

Dr Chung has been the Hong Kong representative at WAPOR for more than 20 years before he was elected Vice President & President-Elect. In 2012, WAPOR held its first annual conference outside Europe and America, and success of that conference eventually started the expansion of WAPOR through the Regional Chapters and Joint Conferences. It also became a fountainhead of WAPOR Asia Pacific of which he was elected the Founding President. In 2020, he was elected as the Vice President & President-Elect of WAPOR. Dr Chung authored the 2012 edition of The Freedom to Publish Opinion Poll Results Report. For many decades, the champions of free speech and research across the globe have been looking forward to listen to his interventions at multiple international platforms. Robert has been a mentor, a teacher and a researcher, even without trying to be. He doesn't really work for these roles; he actually lives them.

Dr Chung has not only witnessed the historic timeline of Hong Kong and East Asia; he has actually worked through it as active participant. More remarkable is the fact that he worked through the most unstable and challenging times in our memory, not only impacting Hong Kong and East Asian region, but beyond these borders in terms of peace and stability. To pick up a challenge of creating an institution dedicated to public opinion research in that region and to sustain it the most challenging times, requires unparalleled courage and determination.

It is our privilege and honour to bestow the WAPOR Asia Pacific Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 to Dr Robert Chung, not just for his unparalleled achievements in the field of public opinion research, but also for being a truly remarkable torchbearer of free speech and uninterrupted, uncompromised flow of people's perceptions. For being a brand ambassador not just for the public opinion research in Hong Kong, for also for the WAPOR values and ethos, that we all share and cherish.

Jibum Kim: President *Linda Luz Guerrero: VP* *Yash Deshmukh: Past President*