



# LI KA SHING FOUNDATION

李嘉誠基金會

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## About Li Ka-shing

In 2006, Li Ka-shing delivered a speech at the Malcolm S. Forbes Lifetime Achievement Award in which he described his Foundation as his “third son”. Through the Foundation, he has pledged to donate one-third of his assets to support philanthropic projects and has called for other Asian entrepreneurs to do the same, in the hope of altering the traditional notion of passing wealth through lineage.

The Li Ka Shing Foundation’s story stretches back over three decades, to 1980, but in many ways, the idea had been in mind for some time before this. Having grown up witness to suffering and illness, Mr. Li cultivated a compassion that set in motion the idea of this third son.

Mr. Li was just 14 years old when his father passed away, due to a lack of available medical care. His father’s death forced him to find employment in a factory to support his family. Despite working 16-hour days, Mr. Li continued to study in the little spare time he had. At work, he quickly proved himself and was promoted to general manager within a few years. Meanwhile, his voracious appetite for knowledge continued to grow and he developed a real interest in studying the latest trends and technologies in the plastics industry, which he believed held great promise.

At the age of 22, Li Ka-shing launched his own business, Cheung Kong Plastics Company. Named after the great Yangtze River, the name reflected Mr. Li’s belief in the power of combined efforts. He made a profit in his first year and has continued to make a profit every year since, diversifying beyond plastics into areas such as property, telecommunications, shipping and retail. The profits from his business have allowed Mr. Li to dedicate over HK\$14.4bn to philanthropic causes to date.

His dedication to improving education and healthcare remains to this day. Following an extended visit to the remote western regions of Mainland China in 2001, Mr. Li and the Foundation joined hands with the Ministry of Education to launch a series of projects aimed at modernising the development of education and medical services. Among the most significant of these projects is STAND (Satellite Transmission Advance Network for Distance Learning), which has provided students in remote regions access to quality education through a high-speed interactive digital platform. Other notable projects include a nationwide hospice program and the creation of Shantou University.

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It is telling that initiatives dedicated to education and healthcare continue to be the focus of LKSF. Every project and every donation stems from Mr. Li's belief in the inherent value of each human life, regardless of race, class, or circumstance. He has devoted himself to helping others overcome the educational and physical barriers preventing them from achieving their potential.

Mr. Li's experiences and life are a testament to his conviction that through hard work and determination, each of us can make a difference in the world—but only with a giving heart can we propel positive change that lasts.

“To be able to contribute to society and to help those in need to build a better life, that is the ultimate meaning in life. I would gladly consider this to be my life's work,” says Mr. Li.