

## **The Most Sincere and Reliable Friend**

*Original post is written in Chinese, below text translated by HKS Education Fund.*

“Mr. Lee is our most reliable and sincere friend.” These are the words of Professor He Meiyang, former Secretary of the Party Committee at Tsinghua University and former Chairman of Tsinghua University Education Foundation, spoken on February 16, 2006, during the “Weiqing<sup>1</sup> Building” groundbreaking ceremony.

These words come from the heart of Chairman He Meiyang and express the genuine feelings of the Tsinghua people.

The Mr. Lee mentioned here is Mr. Herbert Lee, the donor of "Weiqing Building", chairman of the board of directors of HKS (Int'l) Ltd. (“HKSI”), and a Hong Kong entrepreneur.

### **First Meeting with Mr. Lee**

The first time Mr. Lee came to Tsinghua University was on June 22, 2002. Although a mutual friend of both parties introduced him before and sent his right-hand man, Director Chen Wenjie, to do a school visit, this was still an exploratory meeting between acquaintances. In fact, many of the collaborations between the school and the outside world began with exchanges between professors and friends. Professor Feng Zhenming, the Vice Chairman of the Department of Electronics at the time, and I met with Mr. Lee and his party at Jia Suo Restaurant at Tsinghua University.

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<sup>1</sup> “Weiqing”, is a combination of “Weixin”, *pinyin* of “HKSI” in Chinese, and “Tsinghua”, *pinyin* of Tsinghua University in Chinese.

At this meeting, Mr. Lee introduced from a strategic perspective his wishes to cooperate with Tsinghua University and jointly establish a high-tech industrial transformation platform with the usage of HKSI's capital and business experience to complement the university's technology and talents, and to promote the industrialization of Tsinghua's research results.

He believes that the platform should achieve five goals: tax contributions to the country, return on the university's benefits of the project for research funding, full utilization of the skills of scientists and technological workers and achieve appropriate returns from commercial benefits, rewards for the competence and performance of the management staff, and an appropriate return on the investor's investments. This is the original idea source for what we now call the "Five-win Platform" or "Weiqing Platform". ["Weiqing", is a combination of "Weixin" (偉新), *pinyin* of "HKSI" in Chinese, and "Tsinghua", Chinese *pinyin* of Tsinghua University.]

During this meeting, Mr. Lee's strategic vision, unique ideas, efficient capabilities, trust in Tsinghua University, and confidence in the cooperation between the two parties left a deep impression on me and became the start of our trusting relationship.

Since then, the collaboration between HKSI and Tsinghua University has progressed successfully because of Mr. Lee's persistent attitude and relentless effort, as well as the cooperation of the leaders from the Department of Electronics and the deep commitment from the school's leaders.

Five days after our initial meeting, June 27, 2002, Mr. Lee provided a written proposal for the partnership between HKSI and Tsinghua University, and personally signed it himself. After reading the proposal plan, I felt that Mr. Lee had acted efficiently and was truly sincere in his cooperative efforts. I immediately replied via email,

*“After reading it, I think it is very good, and I am touched. Firstly, I believe this proposal reflects Mr. Lee’s vision very well; Secondly, HKSI’ genuine cooperation and open-mindedness to all channels displayed vividly on the paper. This plan shows a clear direction and bright future for our collaboration.*

Soon, the leaders of the Department of Electronics gave a formal reply, expressing approval and a positive response. Mr. Lee was delighted when he heard about this. Regarding the name of the proposed company, Mr. Lee appointed me to come up with it. After discussion, we decided it would be best to use a combination of “Tsinghua” and “Weixin” (*pinyin of HKSI Chinese name*). Mr. Lee often kept a low profile and expressed that he did not want the name to start with “Weixin”.

After repeated discussion, we finally decided on “Weiqing”. The official registered name is Tsing-Tech Innovations Co. Limited. Mr. Lee was the company’s first Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Professor Lin Chuizhou, a visiting professor of our university and ongoing Vice President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, was the company’s first president.

The successive heads of Tsing-Tech Innovations Co. Ltd., have maintained in close contact and cooperation with relevant faculties and departments of our university, and have received strong support from all sides.



Mr. Herbert Lee and Professor Hou Shichang took a group photo at the signing ceremony of the cooperation between Tsing-Tech and Tsinghua University.

### **Donating “Weiqing Building”**

On October 16, 2002, Mr. Lee visited Beijing on a business trip. He called and invited me to meet him in the evening at the Yuyang Hotel where he was staying. He told me he was very happy because it was his birthday (I later found out that it was his 65th). The two of us shared a toast with each other and discussed our brief but sincere friendship.

I introduced him to the historic development of the Department of Electronic Engineering, discipline construction, the strength of scientific research, faculty and friends of the department. I also emphasized the serious losses that came with the relocation of the Department of Electronics to Mianyang, Sichuan Province during the “Cultural Revolution”. After returning to Beijing, the department had been “occupied”. Despite the determination and energy of the university’s leaders, the main struggle was the lack of departmental libraries and laboratory space. As the executive Vice President of the Department, I understood the situation with more detail.

According to Mr. Lee's wisdom and experience, he must have guessed that I wanted him to fund the building. However, he still listened carefully and patiently to my presentation without interrupting.

I proposed the construction of a new building, and Mr. Lee expressed his approval after listening. After learning about the university's policies on construction, he asked how much it would cost. I told him that I hoped Mr. Lee could invest 30 million RMB. This number was previously calculated by me and the Department of Electronics. Mr. Lee generously agreed but mentioned that he needed final approval from HKSI Board of Directors.

On October 22, Mr. Lee responded via email from Hong Kong. The full text is as follows:

*Professor Hou Shi Chang:*

*Hello,*

*Regarding the construction of the research building, the Board of Directors at HKSI have approved the budget of 30 million RMB to carry out this project. We are honored to be able to provide such funding for the construction of a research building for the Department of Electronic Engineering at Tsinghua University through HKSI. To quickly implement this plan, we recommend that HKSI provide the 30 million RMB grant upon the signing of an agreement between Tsinghua University and HKSI. The details of the agreement need to be drafted and provided by the university, and we believe that the agreement could provide a mechanism to govern the use of funds and the completion of the new building.*

*We wish you a happy autumn!*

*Herbert Lee and Chen Wenjie*

*October 22, 2002*

I was very happy upon receiving this email. I immediately printed it, wrote a solemn letter, and sent it by fax to the three directors of the Department of Electronics, Feng Zhenghe, Li Yanhe, and Feng Zhengming.

For the naming of the new building, Mr. Lee expressed many times that he would not use “Xiankai” (*pinyin* of Mr. Lee’s Chinese name) or the company’s name. However, in the end due to our persistence, it was still named “Weiqing Building”.



The opening ceremony of the “Weiqing Building”

Due to some unexpected problems in the site selection, planning and design, the foundation ceremony of “Weiqing Building” was postponed to February 16, 2006.

In the evening, I presented a six-character poem to thank Mr. Lee, expressing my feelings about getting to know him and thanking him for his care and support toward Tsinghua University.

*Always admire Mr. Herbert Lee*

*Jiasuo - Yuyang - Jiali, the track of sincere friendship.*

*the conception of the Weiqing platform brings virtue to the country.*

*Weixin - Tsinghua - Weiqing, the result of cooperative development.*

*the lotus pond reflects the new building, and the wind sings true love forever.*

### **Attending to the Construction of a Healthy Culture for the Elderly**

Tsinghua University has 5,000 retired faculty and staff members. Despite retiring from their original occupations, they still care for the country and Tsinghua University. The health, well-being, livelihood, and activities of these people need the organization's help and support.

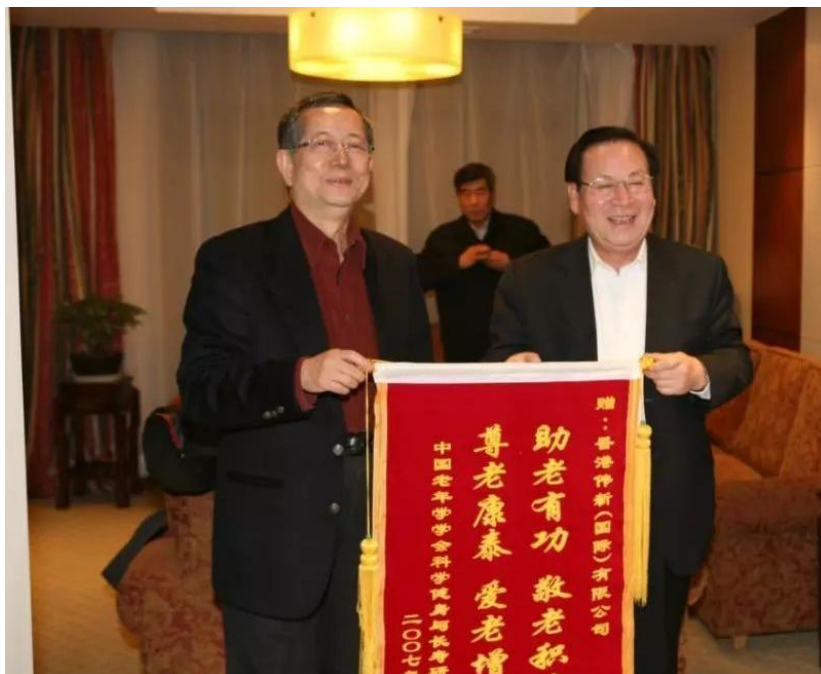
Relevant faculties and departments of our university have made efforts to solve many difficulties for the retired staff and receive favorable comments from them. However, due to the large number of retirees, they often feel overwhelmed. Several directors from the Retirement Affairs Office and leaders of Tsinghua University have informed me about his matter.

On July 28, 2004, Tsing-Tech Innovations Co. Ltd., held a meeting in Nansha Information Technology Park, Panyu, Guangzhou. During this meeting, I talked with Mr. Lee about the matter at hand and proposed the establishment of a Tsinghua University Elderly Health and Culture Fund. He asked me how much money would be needed, and I said several hundred thousand. He decisively replied, *"Okay, one million will be contributed by HKSI. This input is an invitation for others and is to be considered the first investment toward the Elderly Health and Culture Fund. I hope the university will broaden their financial channels and Tsinghua's alumni will be able to fight for more contributions."* After returning to the university, I immediately discussed with the Secretary of the General Education Fund, Huang Jiahua, and the Director of Retirement Affairs, Professor Liu Yu Pin, to establish the Elderly Health



and Culture Fund and draft the articles and management methods. This was then reported to Mr. Lee and Tsing-Tech Innovations Co. Ltd. Not long after, Mr. Lee agreed and allocated the funds to the university's education foundation.

Over the past three years, many units have received support from the Tsinghua University Elderly Health and Culture Fund. These benefited units also continuously report their achievements, results, and work to Mr. Lee and HKS to express their gratitude.



A banner presented to Mr. Herbert Lee by the Gerontological Science Fitness and Longevity Committee of the Chinese Gerontology Society

On the evening of December 6, 2007, at a reception held by the former President, Gu Binglin for Mr. Lee and his delegation, the Gerontological Science Fitness and Longevity Committee of the Chinese Gerontology Society (GSCG) presented Mr. Lee and HKS with a banner that read:



*Helping the elderly with merit, respecting the elderly with virtue; respecting the elderly and being healthy, loving the elderly and increasing their longevity.*

These words express the elderly's heartfelt gratitude and blessings towards Mr. Lee.

### **Supporting Tsinghua University's Remote Education Poverty Alleviation**

In February 2007, Gu Binglin, President of Tsinghua University at that time planned to lead a delegation to Hong Kong to pay a visit to community leaders and alumni in Hong Kong, and to participate in the gathering of Hong Kong Tsinghua University Alumni Association. He was accompanied by Vice Presidents Chen Jining, Yang Jiaqing, and He Meiyang. After Mr. Lee learned of this, he insisted on hosting a banquet on the evening of the 9th to welcome President Gu Binglin and his party.

After finalizing these plans, Mr. Lee sent an invitation to me, inviting my wife and I to go to Hong Kong and welcome President Gu and his party with him. Mr. Lee saw me as one of his own, who welcomed me to be at his side to greet our President. I asked President Gu who said with a smile, "Very good, let's go!"

On the evening of the 9th, we arrived at the place arranged by Mr. Lee. I was shocked seeing the placement of the name tags on the table. Mr. Lee had placed me in the main seat, with President Gu on my right, Vice President Chen on my left, and Mr. Lee sitting across from me. I firmly refused to take the seat but after a long time, it was President Gu and President Yang who said, "Here, we listen to what Mr. Lee decides", eventually ending the "dispute". The atmosphere of the banquet was full of sincerity and friendliness, and the sounds of thanks and blessings rose and fell.

During our dinner, the topic of conversation turned to education. Mr. Lee would like to invest in education, which he believes is the foundation of national development. He said that he established the HKS Education Fund in HKSI to focus on supporting education in poor areas and poor groups, such as the children of migrant workers.

Then, President Gu introduced Tsinghua University's plan to use remote education tools and resources for education poverty alleviation. There were more than 500 impoverished counties across the country, and Tsinghua University has used its own funds to establish remote education poverty alleviation stations in more than 100 of those counties. Teachers, officers, farmers, and students were trained and achieved good results. Tsinghua University wanted to cover all 592 counties by 2011, the Tsinghua University's 100th Anniversary. President Gu invited Mr. Lee and others to visit the school and discuss partnership. This conversation between President Gu and Mr. Lee about remote poverty alleviation marked the starting point of a new partnership between Tsinghua University and HKS Education Fund.

During the board meeting of Tsing-Tech Innovations Co. Ltd. held in Beijing on April 14, 2007, Mr. Lee and the Chairman of HKS Education Fund, Mr. Guo Xizhi, and Director Liao Shengchang visited the university twice. First, they visited the School of Continuing Education, focusing on the Education Poverty Alleviation Studio, and had online conversations with six middle school teachers in Dali, Yunnan. Second, they discussed with the Dean, Hu Dongcheng, and others about the contents of the collaboration and details of the plan on the remote education poverty alleviation project. Mr. Lee finally expressed that HKS Education Fund is willing to have a long-term partnership with Tsinghua on the platform of remote education poverty alleviation. Regarding the design and production of course materials, he suggested prioritizing the urgently needed courses first. The content of the lessons should emphasize character and moral education, which can be funded immediately. Concerning the investment into the other 400 counties that have not been covered, HKS Education Fund is willing to support them. With mutual agreement of both sides, HKS Education Fund, Tsinghua University Education Foundation, and the School of Continuing Education signed a partnership agreement.

The principals deeply realized that: "The good deeds of HKSI have changed the principals and will surely change the fate of the children in impoverished areas!" A headmaster from the mountainous region said excitedly, "It is a dream to come to Tsinghua University, and Mr. Lee is like a living God!"

## **Tsinghua-Weixin Education Fund Established**

On August 24, 2007, Mr. Lee emailed me two articles, one on “The Number of Rosaries” from Ming Pao Daily News and one “What is Social Enterprise?” from Hong Kong Economic Journal.

After reading those articles, I couldn’t calm down and continued to think about them. I fully understand Mr. Lee’s thinking methods and ideal realm. Mr. Lee is precisely that: a strong heart and determined to be a social enterprise.

Sure enough, in a later call, he introduced, in detail, what he had in mind for HKS Education Fund. HKS Education Fund is currently the holding company of HKSI. HKSI earns every year, but the profits will be used to give back to the community, to be used for education and to support education. Mr. Lee has a heart for education and the underprivileged. The three kinds of people he always mentions and cares about are: children of migrant workers, Hope Primary School students, and young people in on-the-job education. He sincerely hopes that through his efforts, the youth will not only become intelligent, capable, virtuous, and self-reliant workers, but also become scientists, engineers, and pillars of the country.

Mr. Lee values Tsinghua and believes in Tsinghua. The years of partnership and communication with Tsinghua have made him full of hope and confidence. He hopes to build another platform with Tsinghua University to support education and cultivate more talents. After many consultations and negotiation between HKS Education Fund and Tsinghua University Education Foundation, they have decided to gradually develop and establish the “Tsinghua-Weixin Education Fund”. HKS Education Fund has granted 20 million RMB as the capital fund. The interest of these funds will be used to provide scholarships for underprivileged undergraduates as well as for the education and training of migrant workers’ children, students in Hope Primary School, and young people in on-the-job education.



Donation certificate issued to Mr. Herbert Lee

To conclude, Mr. Herbert Lee is indeed the “most reliable and sincere friend” of Tsinghua University. Of course, personally, he is a mentor and a helpful friend. He is both a trustworthy and respectable friend, and a role model.

The year 2007 is Mr. Lee’s 70th birthday and the 50th anniversary of starting a business in Hong Kong, which is very worthy of being congratulated. On his birthday, I wrote a couplet and presented it to him to express my admiration and appreciation:

恭祝李翁凱先生七十壽誕  
賢法支教育人至情情厚似海  
凱風化雨潤物無聲聲入心  
丁亥年中秋月夜於清華園 世昌撰

*Noble man you are, supporting education and educating people with affection,*

*with affection as deep as the sea.*

*Kind man you are, turning into rain, watering things silently,*

*and the sound is heard in the heart.*

Written for Mr. Lee's 70th Birthday by Hou Shichang

敬賀我校友名譽校董李賢凱先生八十華誕

胸懷博大理念堅  
心繫清華偉清樓  
情牽國家貧困縣  
汶川地震急所難  
張垣村官得馳援  
君今八十何所祝  
再領風騷一百年

丙申仲秋於清華園

世昌撰  
振基書

*Broad and firm-minded you are,*

*Handled financial crisis with wisdom.*

*Heart with Tsinghua Weiqing Building,*

*Love for the poor in the country,*

*Quick response to the Wenchuan earthquake,*

*Zhangyuan village officials rushed to help,*

*What is enough for you to be eighty now?*

*Lead the way for a hundred years.*

Written for Mr. Lee's 80th Birthday by Hou Shi Chang and Shen Zhenjishu