



**The Honourable Mrs. Anson Chan, GBM, GCMG, CBE, JP
Former Chief Secretary for Administration HKSAR**

ANSON CHAN retired as the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government in 2001, after nearly forty years of service. As Chief Secretary, she headed the 190,000-strong civil service. She was the first woman and the first Chinese to hold the second-highest governmental position in Hong Kong. During her career in the public service she was responsible, amongst other things, for development of Hong Kong's economic infrastructure including the planning and construction of Hong Kong's new international airport, which opened in July 1998, port expansion and deregulation of the telecommunications market.

In recent years, Mrs Chan has taken a prominent role in the campaign for full universal suffrage for election of Hong Kong's Chief Executive and all members of the Legislature. In December 2007 she stood as a candidate in a by-election for a seat in the Legislative Council and won by a convincing margin. Mrs Chan is well known for her stand on transparent and accountable government, on democracy and on safeguarding the rights and freedoms enshrined in the "one country, two systems" concept that applies to Hong Kong.

In addition to holding a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in English and English Literature from The University of Hong Kong, she has been awarded honorary degrees from The University of Hong Kong, Liverpool University, Tufts University in Massachusetts, the Open University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Sheffield, an Honorary Professorship at Jiao Tong University, Shanghai and an Honorary Fellowship at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London.

She is a recipient of the Grand Bauhinia Medal: the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's highest honour and is an honorary Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, an honour conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. In July 2008 the President of France conferred on Mrs Chan the title of Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion d'Honneur.