

## Elsie Leung

The First Female Secretary for Justice (1997)



The Hon. Elsie Leung originated from the Nanhai prefecture, Guangdong Province and was born in 1939 in Hong Kong. Ms. Leung practiced law after qualifying as a solicitor in 1968. She also obtained a Master's degree in law at the University of Hong Kong in 1988.

Ms. Leung had over the years served on many Government committees, including the Independent Police Complaints Council, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Social Welfare Advisory Committee and the Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance). She was actively involved in public affairs and was the past President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

On 1 July 1997, Ms. Leung was appointed the first Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR, becoming the first female Secretary for Justice in Hong Kong. In 2002, she was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM). Ms. Leung is now the Vice President of the Committee for the Basic Law of the HKSAR under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

## Rita Fan

The First Woman Elected as the President of the Legislative Council (1998)



The Hon. Mrs. Rita Fan is currently the President of the Legislative Council (the third term) and the Hong Kong Deputy to the Tenth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. She originated from the Ningbo prefecture, Zhejiang Province and was born in Shanghai. She was educated at the University of Hong Kong, with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Social Science degree. Before the reunification of Hong Kong with the Mainland, she held a number of significant public offices including the Legislative Councillor, the Executive Councillor and Chairperson of the Education Commission, etc. In the 1970s to 80s, when Hong Kong was troubled by the issue of Vietnamese refugees, she was the Convenor of the Legislative Council Ad Hoc Group on Vietnamese Refugees from 1986-88.

In 1997, Mrs. Fan was elected as the President of the Provisional Legislative Council. She was also elected as the President of the First and Second Legislative Council in 1998 and 2000 respectively. In 2004, she was elected to the Legislative Council through geographical constituency election and got over 65,000 votes in the Hong Kong Island Constituency. She was elected the President of the Third Legislative Council.

Mrs. Fan was awarded the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1992, and the Gold Bauhinia Star and the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR Government in 1998 and 2007 respectively.

## Rebecca Lee

The First Hong Kong Female Explorer Who Has Been to the Four Poles of the Earth (1998)



Dr. Rebecca Lee is the first Hong Kong female explorer who has been to the four poles of the Earth (the South Pole, the North Pole, Mount Everest and Yarlong Zngapo Canyon). In 1985, Dr. Lee joined the Chinese South Pole Exploration Team to explore the South Pole. In 1986, she entered the polar zone at latitude 70°N on her own and it was the first time she set foot on the North Pole. Thereafter, Dr. Lee joined a team of Chinese scientists to visit Mount Everest, the Takla Makan Desert which is also named "the Sea of Death" and the Yarlong Zangpo Canyon.

Dr. Lee has successfully reached the North Pole nine times, the South Pole six times and climbed Mount Everest four times, and she was nicknamed 'the Legendary Woman of the Poles'. Her experience was organised and published in nine books and had been made into documentaries and shown in exhibitions.

Dr. Lee is very dedicated to polar exploration and environmental protection. She is devoted to raising funds for the Polar Museum Foundation and is currently the Vice Chairman of the China Association for Expedition, the Vice President of the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology and the founder of the Polar Museum Foundation. In 2000, she was awarded an honorary doctorate degree in Social Science by the Lingnan University in recognition of her contribution to environmental and civil education.

## Laura Cha

The First Person from Outside the Mainland Appointed to be an Official at the Vice-ministerial Rank in China (2001)



Mrs. Laura Cha originated from Shanghai and grew up in Hong Kong. Upon graduation from secondary school, Mrs. Cha furthered her study in the United States and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Doctorate degree in law from the University of Santa Clara. Mrs. Cha practised law in Coudert Brothers in the United States for many years. In 1991, she joined the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) in Hong Kong and had served as the Director and Senior Director of Corporate Finance, and Executive Director of SFC. In 1998, with her rich experience in corporate finance, market regulation and legal affairs, Mrs. Cha was appointed Deputy Chairman of SFC. In 2001, she was appointed Vice-Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission and it was the first time that a person from outside the Mainland was appointed to be an official at the vice-ministerial rank in China. Mrs. Cha returned to Hong Kong in 2004 and has become a member of the Executive Council since then.

## Margaret Chan

The First Hong Kong Citizen Elected as the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (2007)



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Dr. Margaret Chan joined the Hong Kong Government in 1978 as a Medical Officer. She was promoted to Assistant Director and Deputy Director of the Department of Health in 1989 and 1992 respectively. In 1994, she was appointed the Director of Health, being the first woman to assume that post in Hong Kong.

Dr. Chan left the Department of Health in 2003 to join the World Health Organisation (WHO) to become the Director of the Department for Protection of the Human Environment and later Assistant Director-General. In 2006, following the death of Dr. Lee Jong-wook, the former Director-General of WHO, the Chinese Government recommended Dr. Chan to run for the post of Director-General. In November 2006, she was elected by a majority of 24 votes to become the Director-General. She became the first Chinese heading the WHO in its 58 years of history, with her term starting from January 2007.

## The First Woman in ...

Year	Name	First Woman in
1922	Ms. Tsang Ting-chien	First woman to study engineering at the university
1982	Professor Rosie Young	First woman as Dean of Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong
1985	Mrs. Peggy Lam	First woman as Chairperson of the District Board (now District Council)
1986	Ms. Helen Ho	First woman District Judge
1986	Ms. Yip Wing-sze	First woman Conductor of Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra
1992	Ms. Maggie Cheung	First actress to win an international award
1992	Dr. Liza Wang	First woman as Chairman of Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong
1993	Ms. Sherie Kong	First woman jockey participated in a horse race
2001	Ms. Barbara Wong	First women film director to win an international award
2007	Dr. Lily Chiang	First woman as President of Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce