



Education/ Professions/ Technology & Innovation **Professor Vivian Wing-wah Yam**

Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy and Chair Professor of Chemistry of the University of Hong Kong

“ Focus and work hard. One should not mind too much about gains and losses but should continue to strive for excellence. ”



Professor Vivian Wing-wah Yam Profile

1963	Born in Hong Kong
1969 – 1982	Studied at Diocesan Girls' School
1985	Awarded Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) from The University of Hong Kong
1988	Awarded Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Hong Kong Lecturer, Department of Applied Science, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong
1990	Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong
1995	Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong
1997	Professor, Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Chartered Chemist (FRSC, CChem)
1999 – Present	Chair Professor, Department of Chemistry, The University of Hong Kong
2000 – 2001	Awarded Croucher Senior Research Fellowship (“The Croucher Award”)
2001	Elected Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences
2002	Awarded Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Hong Kong
2004	Chartered Scientist (CSci) of the Science Council
2005	Received State Natural Science Award
2005 – 2006	Received Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Medal
2006	Elected Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries (TWAS)

2006	Received Japanese Photochemistry Association Eikohsha Award
2007	Hong Kong Fulbright Distinguished Scholar
2008	Received Hong Kong Outstanding Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Award
2009 – Present	Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy, The University of Hong Kong
2011	Received Laureate of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award Received Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation Prize for Scientific and Technological Progress
2012	Elected Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences Received Jessica Most Successful Women Award 2012
2013	Conferred Docteur Honoris Causa by The Université de Rennes 1
2014	Received Chinese Chemical Society-China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) Chemistry Contribution Prize
2015	Received Royal Society of Chemistry Ludwig Mond Award Elected Foreign Member of Academia Europaea Awarded Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) by the Government of the HKSAR
2015 – Present	Founding Member of The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong

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Professor Vivian Wing-wah Yam

Pioneer in Chemistry - Maintaining a leading position in the field

Professor Vivian Wing-wah Yam, Chair Professor of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Hong Kong is an outstanding scientist born and raised in Hong Kong. Professor Yam's research mainly focused on the development of luminescent materials. Her work has gained worldwide recognition and has resulted in numerous awards. In 2001, she was elected as a Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences as the youngest member of the Academy. In 2012, she was elected as a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. In 2015, Professor Yam joined the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong as the Founding Member of the Academy. She has also been elected as the Leader of the Year 2015 for Education/Professions/Technology & Innovation category.



Devotion to scientific research

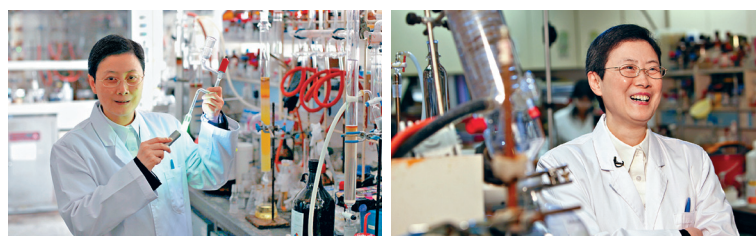
Professor Yam is fully dedicated to scientific research. She works "from 7am to 8.30pm" almost every day at the university. She thanked her family for their support and understanding throughout these years so that she could immerse herself in her work without worries. She also thanked the postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research personnel in her research group for their all-out efforts. Besides, she expressed her sincere gratitude to Professor Chi-ming Che, who is also a Chair Professor of the Department of Chemistry of HKU and was her PhD supervisor. Professor Che was also the recipient of the Leader of the Year for Education/Research category in 2007.

Last year, Professor Yam became one of the 27 founding members of the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, recognising her contribution to scientific research in Hong Kong. As a leading researcher as well as a scientist, Professor Yam would like to promote the importance of science, especially chemistry to the general public. She pointed out that the public had a misunderstanding of chemistry, often associating chemistry with some global problems, for instance, environmental pollution and synthetic substances that are harmful, etc. Professor Yam believed that it is through the interdisciplinary collaborative efforts amongst chemists and scientists in other fields that these issues could be solved. In fact, chemistry is closely related to our daily lives. It can benefit mankind in



biomedicine, biology, materials, energy, and engineering science.

Professor Yam's research interests include inorganic chemistry, organometallic chemistry, supramolecular chemistry, photophysics and photochemistry. Through the control of intermolecular interactions, compounds with different molecular arrangement and alignment and optical properties can be achieved. In particular, Professor Yam is working on the employment of gold(III) compounds as phosphorescent materials for organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs). Various patents have already been filed by Professor Yam and her team regarding this research work. Professor Yam is currently seeking cooperation with the industry to transfer the technology into more energy efficient applications. Professor Yam said that it is important for Hong Kong scientists to possess their own IP rights and patents. She believes that a well-developed society should be capable of cultivating and nurturing confident and successful scientists of its own.



To be inspired and to inspire

Professor Yam has devoted tremendous efforts to nurture young scientists. Despite her busy schedule and heavy involvement in various research activities, she is determined to teach five undergraduate courses with her colleagues every year, simply because she believes that education of the next generation is of crucial importance and she has the responsibility to pass on her knowledge, to inspire the next generation of scientists and to arouse her students' interest in scientific research. Besides, she is very strict with her postgraduate students and is often critical about their work. She said students can only improve if they learn to be open to criticism and challenges, and they should never close themselves up.

Professor Yam has high expectations of her students. She hopes that her postgraduate students are not only studying just for a degree, but also can open up a new research area that they can be proud of themselves when they graduate. "As a scientific researcher, we should be innovative and take the lead rather than just following the trend," she said.