



吳祖博士

Dr. Joseph Ng

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取於社會 用於社會 —加拿大工程界翹楚吳祖博士

人生的坎坷，總是令人別無選擇，被迫去接受人生中的種種「偶然」，但一個有毅力、有理想的人，是真正能抓住苦難生活中的「偶然」機緣，去實現他「必然」的成功之路。從童年逃難香港，留學加拿大，到在安省咸美頓創建事業，JNE集團主席吳祖回望過往，口中有太多無奈的「偶然」，但就是在這些「偶然」中他創造自我人生「必然」的價值，而且在崎嶇人生道路上他寫下了回饋社會的承諾。

幼年的苦難磨煉

如今吳祖常見於加拿大政商名流大型慈善公益活動中，慷慨捐助不落人後，但他並非出自豪門富貴，甚至他的童年非常艱難而貧寒。他出生於中國廣東，父親長年在澳門做生意，賺錢再回鄉下置業買田，但中國政局突變，1949年後吳祖一家被定性為工商業地主身份，成為群眾批判鬥爭的對象，父親就此不能再返鄉下，吳祖母為了家計只有去廣州打工，鄉下就留下了祖母、吳祖及一雙弟妹，而祖母是傳統裹腳婦女，根本無法照顧家務，生活負擔都壓在年幼的吳祖身上，直至他12歲隨父遷移香港才改變了困苦的生活。

雖然幼年生活艱難，但對吳祖而言，這是他人生中最刻骨銘心磨煉，使他更深瞭解貧窮百姓的生活，明瞭人如何去奮鬥上進，並將自己所成奉獻給社會大眾的道理。

中學即將畢業，吳祖面臨著前途的抉選，但受限於經濟條件及專業前景，吳祖根本沒有太多選擇機會，只能是無奈接

受現實來到加拿大留學。因為在香港就業，只有英聯邦國家的專業學位才被承認，而加拿大不僅是英聯邦國家之一，更是教育學費較低的國家，所以1968年他隻身來到加拿大University of New Brunswick攻讀工程專業，選擇學工程主要是實用且畢業後好找工的考量。來到加拿大，他體會到比想像中更艱苦的環境，60年代加拿大的生活條件本來就較艱苦，吳祖是全家第一個出國讀書的，在國外舉目無親，家庭也無力供養他完成學業，吳祖只有一邊學習，一邊打工支付生活費用，到了暑假就一定要掙足下學期的學費及吃住費用，否則就無法繼續學業，但幼年時培養起來的吃苦耐勞精神，使他頑強的順利完成學業。

「偶然」機緣創業於安省

畢業後，吳祖來到了加拿大重工業「鋼鐵重鎮」—安省咸美頓從事電機工程師工作，這是份安穩而高薪的工作，可以無憂無慮做到退休，那與自己創業有何關係？吳祖稱這是「偶然」的無心插柳，原來吳祖原本工作的顧問公司派他去一家煉鋼廠工作了3年，吳祖想換換環境，希望搬到多倫多居住生活，於是就向顧問公司請辭不幹了。不料，因他出色的工作業績，煉鋼廠一定要他繼續做下去，而吳祖又不可能再回顧問公司工作，所以只能以自己名字的公司（JOE NG ENGINEERING）接下煉鋼廠的工程設計業務，從此JNE的名聲就在工程設計業逐漸打響，吳祖開始了自己創業的道路，如今JNE已成為全加幾乎是唯一的最大規模的全資工業工程公司。

「偶然」機緣踏足加中經貿合作市場

1980年吳祖創辦了JNE工程公司，公司基於咸美頓大型鋼鐵公司業務，逐步推展工程設計、顧問諮詢等業務，但不久加拿大鋼鐵行業陷於低迷期，這又為吳祖創造了一個「偶然」的機緣，他嘗試在中國市場尋找新商機，不想他踏出這一步，一做就是30多年，而且是10年一個計劃擴展業務，第一個10年他主要是做二手設備轉遷至國內，搬遷了兩個煉油廠及一個大型合成氨尿素化肥廠回中國，然後重建生產線。第二個10年他就大量參與了加拿大政府EDC貸款援助中國項目計劃，是最早一批參與中國改革開放後建設的加拿大工程公司，投入包括鋼鐵廠、煤氣等工程設計、重建工程項目，計劃由百萬元至四千萬元，以加拿大低息貸款項目對中國經濟起飛做出了傑出的貢獻。而第三個10年就是與大型中國國企合作，開發中國及以外的國際市場。30多年來他對中國工程設計及經濟發展做出重大貢獻，從中他也幫助建立了加中兩國政商界友好合作關係，並多次隨同加國總理及政府高官出訪中國。

JNE工程公司由九十年代開始，不斷推展國際貿易業務，建立全方位工程服務架構，吸納全球精英工程師、技術員、設計師及管理人員等，將先進工程技術服務全球客戶。如今，JNE集團已涵蓋了工程、顧問、電力、化工、汽車等業務部門，業務擴展至中國、德國、日本、沙烏地阿拉伯、墨西哥、哥倫比亞等國家，員工近400人，作為創辦人吳祖目前仍擔任JNE集團主席之職，而其兒子John Ng最近接任總裁之職。

「偶然」中迸發出「必然」的奉獻精神

由於吳祖在工程界的特殊成就及社會奉獻精神，他於2013年5月獲得University of New Brunswick授予榮譽科學博士學位，先前於2003年及2008年分別獲McMaster University及University of Prince Edward Island榮譽法學博士學位。

吳祖為人處事低調，很多人並不知他與主流上層政商界的密切聯繫，甚至成為政治人物的「幕僚」角色，包括與前總理克里靖、馬田等的深厚私人交情，他以此關係網絡不僅推動華人社會與主流政商界的聯繫，更將這些資源化為貢獻社會的渠道。在2010年，通過前總理馬田的引荐，緬尼吐巴省的法裔印第安人酋長來電話請求吳祖，能否幫助當地印第安人創辦企業，促進當地經濟發展。吳祖當即一口應允，但考慮到土著普遍教育水準較低，很難辦高技術的企業，而恰好他集團中有家清潔公司，專門為大學、中學、醫院等做清潔服務，約有百多名雇員，於是他就將這一模式完全介紹給土著社區，從創辦到培訓等，吳祖都全部「包辦」，終於使土著社區建立起自己創業的公司，如今他們都已完全自立，而且生意源源不斷，因為政府招標，土著都可優惠獲得三分之一的工作份額，他們對吳祖的傾力相助尤為感激不盡。

吳祖在個人成長及事業發展之中，遇有太多無奈的現實，「偶然」性機緣選擇，但卻從艱難之中孕育出他那「必然」而成的精神，那就是他掛在口上的：「取於社會，用於社會」。從他創業開始，就從未停止過對社會的奉獻，尤其在咸美頓地區他的美名遠揚。由上世紀七十年代開始，他就由參與咸美頓中文學校的建設逐漸融入社會公益服務事業中。他長年支持McMaster University、University of Waterloo、Hamilton

Art Gallery、Hamilton Health Science Foundation及公益金等機構，他捐助McMaster University壹百萬元，建立了一個永久性的JNE基建講座教授之位。他還以其父吳文之名在該大學設立外國學生獎學金，5至10名第一年就學的獲獎者可獲2,000元資助。吳祖捐助Hamilton Health Science Foundation一百萬元，並擔任三年醫療基金主席。吳祖在咸美頓市立美術館捐贈90萬元成立了Joe Ng館。吳祖籌款興建的Eva Rothwell Centre at Robert Land，成為咸美頓當地提供全面社區服務的最完善的機構。吳祖一向重視基礎教育工作，他資助了咸美頓Barton Secondary School的早餐計劃，擔任中文學校名譽校長之職，並大量資助地區學校的冰球、棒球等青少年體育運動隊項目。同時，吳祖還重視社區耆老服務，長年資助頤康中心等耆老服務項目。凡此種種社會公益捐助，吳祖多不勝數。

如今吳祖雖已讓位於下一代接班，但他說，「我是停不下來的人，從一個崗位裡退休又從另外一個崗位中冒出來。希望孩子們將來都能對社會做出貢獻。」吳祖從事業發展、公益奉獻至促進加中兩國友好關係等，社會貢獻卓越，他是加國社會之楷模，必將激勵更多華人投身社會，成為加國棟樑之才。



與子女合影
With sons and daughter



與太太和加拿大前總理克雷蒂安伉儷出席晚宴
With wife and former Prime Minister
Jean Chretien and Mrs Chretien at a gala dinner.



出席前安省移民廳廳長Michael Colle舉行的
中秋聯歡會
Attended Mid-Autumn Festival celebration
hosted by former Ontario Minister of Immigration
Michael Colle



與太太及前安省省長麥堅迪伉儷等合影
With wife and former Ontario Premier
Dalton McGuinty and Mrs McGuinty



與加拿大國家科技顧問委員會全體成員
(後排左一是現任加拿大總督
戴維·約翰斯頓)
With members of Canada's National Advisory
Board on Science and Technology (Back row, 1st left
is The Right Honourable David Johnson,
Governor-General of Canada)



與前安省省長麥堅迪及北美勞工工會主席
With former Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty
and Chairman of North America Labour Union



出席寧夏化工廠投產典禮
Attending inauguration ceremony of a
Ningxia chemical plant



與前中國駐加拿大大使盧樹民(中)
及蘇潘慕潔出席晚宴
With former Chinese Ambassador to Canada
Lu Shumin (middle) and Irene So



出席加拿大前總理保羅馬丁晚宴
Attending gala dinner hosted by former
Prime Minister Paul Martin



出席加拿大保護中國文物基金會籌款晚宴
Attending fundraising gala of the Canadian
Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation



在歡迎前安省省長麥堅迪到訪咸美頓市的
宴會上致歡迎詞
Welcome Speech at gala honouring former
Ontario Premier Doulton McGuinty in Hamilton



為咸美頓中文學校新年聯歡會醒獅點睛
Eye-dotting ceremony for Chinese New Year
celebration at Hamilton Chinese School

Dr. Joseph Ng

We all know perfectly well that life is not without its challenges, often offering only limited choices, and it takes a person with tremendous perseverance and remarkable foresight to turn these obstacles into successes. The Chair of the JNE Group of Companies, Joe Ng, looks back on his past: from his escape to Hong Kong in childhood, to studying abroad in Canada, to building a business in Hamilton, Ontario. He creates 'wealth' out of a life of 'perchance' happenings, and on this difficult life journey he also makes a commitment to pay back society.

Joe often attends charity events frequented by Canadian politicians and the social elite, his donations among the most generous on record, but he did not come from a wealthy family background, and his childhood was a difficult one. He was born in Guangdong province, his father a business man working year-round in Macau. After Joe's father made some money from his business, he was able to go back home to purchase land and businesses. In 1949, in the midst of political upheavals in China, Joe Ng's family was branded as 'business owner and landlord', the target of mass class struggle at that time. His father could no longer return to China. Joe's mother had to go to Guangzhou to get a job, leaving his grandmother to take care of Joe and his two younger siblings. His grandmother, a traditional Chinese woman with bound feet, could not do house work. The heavy household burden fell on young Joe's shoulders, until he turned twelve and was able to follow his father's steps to Hong Kong.

His difficult childhood ingrained in his bones, Joe deeply understands the lives of poor people. He knows how one has to struggle to better

oneself, and wants to use his resources to help others.

When Joe was about to graduate from high school, he faced different paths for his future. Limited by what his family could afford, Joe did not really have too many choices. Down the road he wanted to practice his chosen profession in Hong Kong, where only British Commonwealth university degrees were recognized. Not only was Canada one of the British Commonwealth countries, it was also one with the lowest school fees. Accepting reality, Joe decided to attend the University of New Brunswick in 1968.

The choice of engineering was a practical one considering the good prospect of jobs after graduation. Once in Canada Joe experienced a more difficult environment than he anticipated. In the 1960s, living conditions everywhere were more difficult. Joe, being the first one to go abroad in his family, did not have any relatives in Canada, and his family did not have the resources to pay for his tuition. Joe worked to support his studies. Every summer he had to make enough money to pay for tuition and room and board for the following year. The hardworking spirit that he cultivated growing up allowed him to juggle his studies and work.

Following graduation, Joe came to Steeltown Hamilton to work as an electrical engineer. It was a steady and well paid position, and Joe could have coasted along until his retirement. So how did he end up building his own business? Joe calls it an accidental opportunity. The consulting company that Joe was with had assigned him to work in a steel company. After three years, Joe thought it was time to change his surroundings. He resigned from the consulting company, intending to find a new position in Toronto. However, much to Joe's surprise,

the steel company thought so highly of his work that it insisted that he continue to work for them. Not able to return to the consulting company, Joe formed his own firm and named it Joe Ng Engineering to continue the engineering design work. From that point on, the reputation of JNE increasingly grew, and Joe began building the business. Today, JNE has become one of the biggest independent engineering companies in Canada.

Initially JNE offered engineering design and consulting services to large steel companies. But soon the steel industry went into a rut, and this unexpectedly created another opportunity for Joe. He started to look for business possibilities in China, taking a gingerly first step, not knowing that this first step would balloon to three 10 year expansion plans over a span of thirty years. In the first 10-year plan Joe sold used equipment to China, moving two oil refineries and one fertilizer manufacturing plant there and putting them into production.

In the second 10 year plan, Joe was actively involved with the Canadian federal government, which provided monetary and technical aid to China to help with its economic reform. JNE was one of the first Canadian engineering companies there, assisting with the privatization of Chinese national steel and gas industries. It provided engineering design and rebuilding services, with projects ranging from a million to 40 million dollars, contributing tremendously to the Chinese economy by offering funds at low interest rates from Canada.

In the third 10 year plan Joe worked with large scale Chinese national industries, helping them break into international markets outside China.

Over the last 30 years Joe has made an outstanding contribution to engineering design and economic development in China. At the same time he has helped develop a good working relationship between the two countries at both political and business levels, accompanying prime ministers and government officials to visit China numerous times.

Since the early 90s, JNE has been developing its international business, and has built an internal infrastructure to provide comprehensive engineering services. It hires the best talents in engineering and design, technicians, and project managers from all over the world and provides the most advanced technical services to client firms. In addition to the steel industry, JNE has expanded to offer engineering and consulting services to power, chemical and automation industries all over the world. Its service areas cover China, Japan, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Columbia, employing four hundred staff. Joe is now the Chair of the JNE Group while his son John Ng has recently taken over the post of Chief Executive Officer.

In May 2013, Joe received an Honorary Doctor Degree of Science from the University of New Brunswick recognizing his exceptional achievements in engineering and his contribution to society. Previously he was conferred the Honorary Doctorate degrees of Law from McMaster University in 2003 and the University of Prince Edward in 2008.

Joe likes to stay low-key in what he does. Most people don't know that he has close ties with many top-level decision makers in both political and business worlds, often providing help behind the scenes. He has close personal relationships with two former prime ministers, Jean Chretien and Paul Martin. Not only is Joe able to promote

the Chinese Canadian community through his network, but he also contributes his resources to society using this channel. In 2010, upon the recommendation of ex-prime minister Paul Martin, the French Indian Chief of a Manitoba tribe called Joe up to see if he could help the Manitoba natives establish businesses and promote local economic development. Joe committed to help, but considering that the natives had a low educational level, it would be difficult for them to establish any high-tech industries. Coincidentally, within his conglomerate of companies, there was a cleaning firm of over 100 employees providing cleaning services for universities, high schools and hospitals. So he introduced this business model to the native community, looking after the business start-up and training until the native community was able to stand on their own. Now they are totally independent, and the business is doing well, since the Government of Canada has to allocate one third of their work to native communities when outsourcing. They are extremely grateful to Joe for his help.

Throughout his life, Joe has encountered many situations in both his personal growth and business development that he could not change or where he did not have much choice, but these obstacles enabled him to cultivate his 'can do' spirit, and practise his own motto: 'receive from community; give to community'.

From the day he started his first job, Joe has not stopped giving back. His reputation is well known in the City of Hamilton. Beginning with setting up Chinese schools in the 1970s in Hamilton, Joe gradually got more and more involved in the community. He is a long-time supporter of McMaster University, University of Waterloo, Hamilton Art Gallery, Hamilton Health Science Foundation and United Way. He donated \$1 million to McMaster University's Faculty of

Engineering for an endowed chair in infrastructure renewal. He also donated a scholarship in his father's name for foreign students. Five to ten freshmen students would get \$2000 each towards their tuition.

Joe also donated \$1 million to Hamilton Health Science Foundation, and was the Chair of the medical foundation for three years. He donated \$900,000 to the Hamilton Art Gallery to build a Joe Ng Gallery. The Eva Rothwell Centre at Robert Land, built by funds raised by Joe, became the most comprehensive social services organization in Hamilton. Joe has always stressed the importance of a good educational foundation. He donated to the breakfast plan in Barton Secondary School, and was the honorary school principal for the Hamilton Chinese School. Joe also donates generously to local hockey and baseball teams to encourage youth sports. At the same time, Joe feels senior services are very important, so he also donates generously to Yee Hong senior services. These donations are so numerous that Joe has lost count.

Now Joe has stepped aside to let the next generation take over. But he says, "I am the type of person who cannot stop. I would retire from one position only to take on another. I hope my children will all be able to contribute to society." Joe's business successes, his contributions to community and to the friendly relationship between China and Canada make him the role model for Canadian society. His exceptional achievements will motivate more Chinese Canadians to work for our community and become pillars of our nation.