Simon Fook‐Keung Chu Receives the 2019 Emmett Leahy Award

Simon F. Chu is the recipient of the 2019 Emmett Leahy award, the international prize given to one person each year in recognition of his or her outstanding contributions to the records and information management profession. The award has been presented annually since 1967, and Mr. Chu is the first recipient of the Award in Asia.

Simon Chu is honored for his work in the Public Records Office of Hong Kong. He also served as the first records manager of the Hong Kong Government, paving the way for the first service-wide records management strategy. He rallied support from the stakeholders and convinced the government to build the first purpose-built archives facility, a spectacular achievement. He is the public face of the Hong Kong Archives Action Group, campaigning for an archives law for Hong Kong, and is one of the founders of the Hong Kong Archives Society.

Simon Chu is an educator of international reputation. He is the first person to teach archives in Hong Kong universities, teaching in the History Department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong since 2007. But even more significant, in 2003 Mr. Chu created the international Post Graduate Certificate archives course at the University of Hong Kong SPACE; the course has educated hundreds of archivists in Asia, from Bangladesh to Mongolia.

The Award especially acknowledges Simon Chu’s international work, which includes serving for almost 20 years as the Secretary General of the East Asian Branch of the International Council on Archives, helps develop the UNESCO Memory of the World Program in the Asia Pacific Region for nearly 20 years. A true archival diplomat, he has made three trips to North Korea to train the information professionals and help that nation develop a national Memory of the World Committee and identify its documentary heritage eligible for listing in the Memory of the World International Register.

Former U.S. Acting Archivist Trudy Huskamp Peterson, the 2018 winner of the Emmett Leahy Award, presented the award to Mr. Chu, in a ceremony in Hong Kong on Monday, November 4, 2019.

Emmett Leahy (1910-1963) was a U.S. archivist who called for the engagement of archivists to promote good records administration early in the life history of the records. He is a major figure in the history of the records and information management profession.

Preservica is the corporate sponsor of the Emmett Leahy Award, see www.preservica.com.