

## **Biography of Key-note Speaker**

Mr CHING Cheong was born in 1949 in China, brought up in Hongkong and graduated from the University of Hongkong in 1973, majoring in Economics and Geography. After teaching briefly for a year he took up journalism in 1974 which becomes his life-long profession since then.

He first joined the pro-Beijing newspaper in HK, the Wen Wei Po, and became its deputy chief editor until 1989 when he quitted the paper in protest against the Tiananmen crackdown. He founded the Contemporary news magazine focusing on analysis and commentary of China's political and social developments. Since 1996 he joined the Straits Times until now.

In his long career he specializes in political news in the Greater China area and is among the few that had in-depth posting experience in both Beijing, Taipei and Hongkong.

When he worked with the Wen Wei Po, he was known for championing press reform by breaking a series of political taboo on China news reporting. Since 1989 he was active in promoting press freedom, political reform and human rights in China.

His incisive analysis and critical commentary unfortunately landed him in jail in China from 2005 to 2008, accused of spying for Taiwan, which he denied. During his imprisonment, Hong Kong people mounted a city-wide campaign, transcending political and religious lines, to lobby for his early release.

He was released on parole in February after serving half of his sentence.