James Earl “Jimmy” CARTER

James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, Jr. is awarded the inaugural LUI Che Woo Prize 2016 in the Positive Energy category, with the specific area of focus of “Individuals or Organisations Whose Behaviour and Achievement Inspire, Energise and Give Hope to Others”, for all the good work that he and The Carter Center that he established in 1982 have done, which has contributed significantly to the promotion of positive life attitude and enhancement of positive energy in the world.

James Earl “Jimmy” Carter, Jr. has always put human rights, equality, ethnic and racial reconciliation, peace, and social harmony on the highest priority and spared no effort in promoting them. Since 1980, Mr. Carter and The Carter Center have consistently been at the forefront of the protection of human rights; the promotion of democracy; the mediation, resolution and prevention of conflicts (for example, in Haiti, Bosnia, Ethiopia, North Korea, Sudan and other countries); the promotion of gender and racial equality; and the support of free and fair elections through impartial monitoring all over the world (The Carter Center has monitored over 100 elections in 39 countries since 1989). As Governor of the State of Georgia (1971-1975), Mr. Carter called for the immediate end of continuing racial discrimination there. He resigned from the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 when it refused to accept women pastors. More recently, he founded the New Baptist Covenant in the United States to bring together all Baptist congregations - white, black, Hispanic and Asian - across racial divides there.

Mr. Carter also has a noble vision to alleviate and reduce human suffering. He and The Carter Center have worked to improve global health conditions through the successful control and eradication of diseases such as Guinea worm disease, river blindness, malaria, trachoma, lymphatic filariasis, and schistosomiasis; and through the provision of better care for and the reduction of the social stigma of mental illnesses. Mr. Carter believes that people can be empowered through knowledge and skills. Again working through The Carter Center, African farmers were taught new farming techniques that increase their crop production, so that they can in turn improve their own nutrition and be able to live a fuller and richer life.
In addition, since 1984, Mr. Carter has been the highest-profile supporter of the Habitat for Humanity project, which is devoted to building “simple, decent, and affordable” housing for underprivileged people all over the world. Mr. Carter personally takes part in the actual homebuilding every year, in the annual Jimmy Carter Work Project "blitz build" (more recently renamed “The Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project”). These activities have benefitted tens of thousands of families around the world. Through his own direct participation, Mr. Carter has inspired and energised those trying to solve the homelessness problem as well as given hope to the homeless.

Promotion of positive life attitude and enhancement of positive energy are easier said than done. Mr. Carter has deep insight and a long-term vision as to how to make the world better. He has also been able to provide the indispensable leadership to The Carter Center, and through The Center and his own personal dedication, faith, tenacity and unwavering devotion, to make his vision a reality. He is an exemplary role model for others. The great willpower and strength of character that he has demonstrated will inspire many generations to come to follow his selfless example. By bringing peace, prosperity, good health and hope to millions, and by fighting for human rights and a just society, Mr. Carter has inspired, energised, given hope and imparted positive energy to people around the world.