CITATION on the occasion of the presentation to

the Chancellor, Mr David Gonski, AC by

the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Frederick Hilmer AO

of

MR RATAN NAVAL TATA, *BArch Cornell*

for the award of the degree of

DOCTOR OF BUSINESS

***honoris causa***

27 November 2012

Today, we honour Mr Ratan Naval Tata for his eminent service to the community. The globally respected chairman of the Tata Group, India's largest and most diversified corporation, Ratan Tata is acknowledged widely as: a brilliant businessman both in India and internationally, a driving force behind the resurgence of India as an economic and world power, a philanthropist with a social conscience and a passionate advocate for advances in technology, innovation and higher education.

Ratan Tata was born in 1937 and began his working life in India in 1962, following his graduation from Cornell University in the United States with a degree in architecture.

Sent by his family to work at Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, he was assigned to the shop floor, shovelling limestone and operating the blast furnace. After working his way up through the company, his managerial career began in 1971 when he was appointed Director of National Radio and Electronics (Nelco).

In 1991 he became Chair of Tata Industries and embarked on a campaign of modernising the company, pulling together the many and loosely connected companies into a group with several business lines and a centralised management.

A hallmark of Ratan Tata’s career has been bold ideas and innovation: for example, in 1998 he developed and launched India's first locally manufactured 'people's car', the Indica.

This was followed in 2009 by the development and launch of the Nano, the world’s cheapest road car, bringing the possibility of new car ownership to many Indians.

During his tenure, the Tata Group’s revenues have grown more than tenfold and the acquisition of Tetley, Jaguar Land Rover and Corus transformed Tata Industries, which became truly global and no longer dependent on a single economy. This also signalled the beginning of a wave of acquisitions of foreign businesses by Indian business people.

The Tata family has a long tradition of philanthropy, social responsibility and commitment to improving the lives of others. Ratan Tata has been no exception to that tradition. Tata philanthropy is embodied in two Trusts established in 1919 and 1974 that own nearly two thirds of the parent firm’s equity and are now chaired by Ratan Tata.

Mr Tata does not appear on Indian and global “rich lists” because the other Tata tradition he maintains is that of transferring much of his wealth to the many Tata Trust initiatives that work for the greater good of the country.

In the 1990s the Trusts moved beyond what is viewed as simple ‘resource transfers’ into committed sectoral engagement continuing their extraordinary generosity.

A notable but not widely known example of the Tata approach followed the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008. The Tata flagship hotel, the Mumbai Taj Mahal, was a central target of the attacks and a number of employees were killed and many others injured.

In a record two weeks a new Trust was established for employees in order to distribute relief as quickly as possible to staff as well as others injured in areas surrounding the hotel. Ratan Tata personally visited all of the families of employees who had been killed or injured at the hotel and also attended the many funerals over a gruelling three day period.

As the Chairman of the Tata Group, India’s largest non-government employer, with 200,000 employees across India, Mr Tata’s leadership models ethical work practices, social responsibility and community engagement at the highest levels.

 The many Tata companies are involved in a wide range of community development projects and programs in India and other parts of the world, encompassing many initiatives, from welfare of women and children to health, education and livelihood and more. The Tata Group and the Trusts encourage and fund leading scholarship in the areas of social responsibility and engagement.

Today, on the eve of handing over control of Tata Group to his successor Mr Tata has been focusing his energy and business acumen on the problem of gender diversity including addressing the lack of woman in leadership in Tata companies and more widely and his efforts are starting to produce results.

Mr Tata serves on the board of the Ford Foundation and the program board of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's India AIDS initiative. He serves in a senior capacity within a number of organisations in India and internationally and is a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry.

Mr Tata has received much recognition and many accolades, rewards and honours from around the world. In 2004 he was named Businessman of the Year for Asia by Forbes Magazine.

Council, noting his eminent service to the global community, resolved that it would be fitting if the degree of Doctor of Business, honoris causa, were to be conferred on Dr Tata, and today we admit him to the University’s highest honour.