

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 1999

TAN Keng Yam Tony

BSc(Hons)1962

Deputy Prime Minister (1995--2005)

Chairman, National Research Foundation and Singapore Press Holdings

The Faculty is indeed pleased and proud that Dr Tony Tan accepted our inaugural Distinguished Science Alumni Award in 1999. We have all been the beneficiaries of his contribution to Singapore's education scene. As the then Minister for Education as well as the first Vice-Chancellor of NUS, and also Minister in charge of NUS and NTI/NTU, he streamlined the nation's education system. Among other things, he made entry to the university more flexible, increasing the number of ways students could qualify for the university, expanding NUS programmes and setting up facilities to cater to a higher intake.

He read Physics at the University of Singapore. He topped his cohort in 1962 with First Class Honours, garnering several academic awards. On receiving his Master of Science degree in Operations Research in 1964 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he returned to his alma mater as Lecturer in the Physics Department and later with the Mathematics Department after obtaining his PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Adelaide in 1968. He joined the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation in 1969.

Responding to the needs of Singapore he was elected MP in 1979 when he was also appointed Senior Minister of State (Education). He became: Minister for Education in 1980 with responsibilities extending to being in charge of NUS and NTI. His much admired and appreciated Ministerial duties include Trade and Industry (1981-6), Finance (1983-5), Health (1985-6), Education (1985-91) and Defence (1995-2003). He also served as Deputy Prime Minister (1995-2005) and Co-ordinating Minister for Security and Defence (2001-5).

In 2005 he became Chairman of the National Research Foundation and Singapore Press Holdings, Deputy Chairman, Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council, and GIC Deputy Chairman and Executive Director.

In October 1997, Dr Tan was made honorary fellow of the Singapore Institute of Physics together with Nobel laureate Jerome Friedman, 'for their contribution to education and the promotion of science.' He also headed the Technopreneurship 21 programme, to set up a conducive environment and world-class facilities to give creativity and entrepreneurship a boost. Dr Tony Tan has also received an NUS Eminent Alumni Award. A write up on this may be found on <http://www.nus.edu.sg/centennial/alumniawards/tky.htm>

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YEO Ning Hong

BSc 1965, BSc(Hons) 1966, MSc 1968

Chairman, PSA Corporation Limited

Over the past 30 years, Dr YEO Ning Hong has contributed much to Singapore's academic, communications, defence and industrial scenes. After serving as the Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for National Development, and then as the Minister for Defence, he went on to become the Executive Chairman of the Singapore Technologies Group, where he was chiefly responsible for its reorganisation, the synergistic diversification of its products and the extension of its business globally. Then as the Chairman of the Port of Singapore Authority, managing the busiest port in the world, he saw to its corporatisation and pioneered PSA's rapid growth internationally.

Dr YEO, the next recipient of the Distinguished Science Alumni Award, received his academic training at the Faculty of Science, University of Singapore. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in 1965, Honours in 1966, and Master's in 1968. He received his MA and PhD from Cambridge University in 1970. After a year of post-doctoral research at Stanford University, he returned to Singapore to become a chemistry lecturer at the University of Singapore from 1971 to 1974. Over the years, he published over 25 research papers in international journals, and refereed for international chemistry journals as well.

Between 1970 and 1973, Dr YEO was also a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge University. Twenty five years later, in recognition of his achievements, Christ's College honoured him by electing him Honorary Fellow of the College in 1998.

Career-wise, after assuming several senior managerial positions in an international pharmaceutical company, Dr YEO became a Member of Parliament in 1980, and served as a Cabinet Minister for 14 years until 1994. Today, Dr Yeo continues his ties with academia by chairing the International Academic Advisory Panel of distinguished international academics and thinkers for Singapore's universities, with the objective of bringing our universities to world class standards. He also serves as Chairman of PSA Corporation Limited, the Singapore Totalisator Board, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra Trust, and the Keppel Golf Club.

For all these outstanding contributions to the nation, to industry and to science, we are honoured to present the Distinguished Science Alumni Award 2000 to Dr YEO Ning Hong.

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HUANG Hsing Hua

BSc(Hons) 1955, MSc 1957

Emeritus Professor HUANG Hsing Hua is renowned for his research in the field of physical organic chemistry and spectroscopy, and his career is as distinguished as the awards he has won: the Queen's Scholarship, the University Council Fellowship tenable at the University of Cambridge, the Gold Medal for Public Administration, the NSTB Science Award among them. He has published over 140 papers in refereed international journals and he has supervised some 9 PhD students and 21 MSc students, among them another fellow recipient of this award, Dr YEO Ning Hong.

Professor HUANG Hsing Hua graduated from the University of Malaya (Singapore) with an Honours degree in Chemistry in 1955 followed by a Master's degree in 1957. After obtaining a PhD degree from Oxford University he returned to the University of Malaya (Singapore) as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry.

When he was President of the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry from 1976 to 1992, the institute organised and was actively involved in programmes that helped promote chemistry in Singapore as well as the international scene. Professor HUANG started scholarships for 'O' and 'A' level pupils to encourage and reward achievements in the subject. He also played an active role in the affairs of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (FACS), in which he served as President from 1985 to 1987.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the National University of Singapore from 1981 to 1994 he worked with Professor LIM Pin to oversee a sharp rise in student enrolment, in research activity and funding, as well as an increase in the number of staff. He was a driving force in the promotion of multidisciplinary research and the setting up of such centres. His work has certainly contributed to lifting the image of NUS among global tertiary institutions.

We are honoured to have had such a talent study in and serve our Faculty and University, and now, with pride present Dr HUANG Hsing Hua the Distinguished Science Alumni Award 2000.