



CITATION ON PROFESSOR TAN CHORH CHUAN FOR THE CONFERMENT OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIP

It is with great pleasure that I announce the award of the title of University Professor, the National University of Singapore's highest academic appointment, to Professor Tan Chorh Chuan.

This title is bestowed on senior faculty members who have demonstrated deep and ongoing commitment to NUS, and have served the University with distinction in at least one of the three areas of education, research and service. He or she would have made significant long-term contributions to the development of the University, and also to the community.

For the past 13 years, Chorh Chuan has served NUS with distinction – first as Provost in April 2004, and subsequently as President from December 2008 to December 2017. His tireless dedication to the University and the initiatives he has spearheaded have transformed NUS into what it is today – widely recognised as the top university in Asia, and one of the world's leading universities, with a reputation for innovative global education and pioneering new models of education that are accessible to all Singaporeans of different talents and backgrounds. The University has also established itself as an international research powerhouse, working with partners from industry, government and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Singapore, Asia and the world.

Chorh Chuan's transition from a scholar to a physician to a leader was meteoric. He entered the University on a Public Service Commission Merit Scholarship to study medicine, where he proved to be an exceptional student. He graduated in 1983 with an MBBS, and went on to do Internal Medicine, winning the Gordon Arthur Ransome Gold Medal as the top candidate in the Master of Medicine (Internal Medicine) examination. He later specialised in Renal Medicine, and won a Commonwealth Medical Fellowship and Wellcome Fellowship to do research in erythropoietin at the University of Oxford, towards his NUS PhD in 1993.

In 1997 at age 38, he was appointed Dean of the NUS Faculty of Medicine by the then Vice Chancellor Professor Lim Pin. He remains the youngest Dean NUS Medicine has had to date.

In 2000, Chorh Chuan became Director of Medical Services at the Ministry of Health, a post he served till 2004. Many of us would remember him as the valiant national expert on SARS, a new and ominous infectious disease which hit Singapore suddenly in 2003. Chorh Chuan faced the adversity and uncertainty created by the SARS epidemic, and the public anxiety and fear, with his hallmark calmness and resilience. For his exemplary leadership in managing the public health response to the SARS crisis, Chorh Chuan was presented with the Public Service Star award in 2003; followed by the Public Administration Gold Medal in 2004 for his work at the Ministry of Health, before his return to NUS.

At the University, Chorh Chuan played a key role in setting up the Duke-NUS Medical School in his capacity as Deputy Chairman of the School's Governing Board from 2005 to 2008. As the inaugural Chief Executive of the National University Health System (NUHS) in 2008, he brought the NUS Medical and Dental Schools, and the National University Hospital under a single governance – all this, while he was still Senior Deputy President of NUS! In 2008, Chorh Chuan received the National Science and Technology Medal for his leadership of Singapore's Biomedical Sciences Initiative, which began in 2000.

Under his watch as NUS President from 2008 to 2017, the pace of developments and new initiatives at the University accelerated: NUS University Town; Yale-NUS College; School of Continuing and Lifelong Education; the new Research Centres of Excellence; Smart Nation Research Cluster; expansion of NUS Overseas Colleges; and growth of the University's entrepreneurial ecosystem, amongst others. In 2015, Chorh Chuan was awarded the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal by the Singapore government.

Chorh Chuan also served the nation in other capacities. He was Deputy Chairman of Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research from 2004 to 2017; and a Member, of the Board of Directors of the Monetary Authority of Singapore as well as Mandai Park Holdings Pte Ltd. He also chaired the CPF Advisory Panel that recommended enhancements to the CPF system.

On the international front, Chorh Chuan has established outstanding rapport with his counterparts and other thought leaders. He has been a member of the World Economic Forum's Global University Leaders Forum (GULF) since 2008, and was appointed Chair of GULF from 2014 to 2016. He was the Chairperson of the International Alliance of Research Universities, a consortium of 10 leading research-intensive universities from 2008 - 2012, and was a member of the Steering Committee of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. Chorh Chuan is also the first Singaporean to be elected as an international member of the US National Academy of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and of London; the American College of Physicians; elected

Fellow of the Polish Academy of Medicine; and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, United Kingdom.

His international awards include the 2015 Asia-Pacific Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education; the Dr John Yu Medal from the George Institute for Global Health, Australia; the Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal from the Polish Academy of Medicine; as well as honorary doctorates from King's College, Duke University and Loughborough University.

Although Chorh Chuan has now taken on new roles in the Ministry of Health as Singapore's first Chief Health Scientist and concurrently the founding Executive Director of the Office for Healthcare Transformation, I am happy to share that he has been appointed Senior Advisor to NUS. There is no expiry date for this NUS membership!

Chorh Chuan is an accomplished painter, and an avid trekker, bird watcher and scuba diver. He is a man of many talents, our very own "Renaissance Man". He serves as an inspiring model to our students and alumni, and a shining example of what it means to serve the University and the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating our distinguished recipient of the University Professorship, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan.