

Shih Choon Fong

2000 - 2008

Professor Shih Choon Fong was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1997 and three years later, took up the appointment of Vice-Chancellor and President of NUS. Over his eight years as President, he led NUS' transformation into a research-intensive university respected in the global arena.

A graduate of Harvard University, Prof Shih has made significant contributions to the field of nonlinear fracture mechanics and computational methods for fracture analyses. He is listed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) among the world's most highly cited engineering researchers.

Prof Shih was a key driver for the formation of the International Alliance of Research Universities, and led the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) for four years. In addition, he was the founding chair of the Governing Board of the APRU World Institute, an institute of advanced studies seeking to address scientific, social and economic issues of global importance. He also served on national-level committees such as the Economic Review Committee, which crafted wide-ranging strategies for the re-making of Singapore.



Education

- Professional Diploma in Engineering, Singapore Polytechnic
- Master's in Applied Science, Harvard University
- PhD in Applied Science, Harvard University

Career

- 1969-71 Mathematical Analyst, American Science & Engineering, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1973-74 Research Fellow, Harvard University
- 1974-81 Leader of Fracture Research Group, Corporate R&D Laboratory, General Electric, New York
- 1981-83 Visiting Associate Professor, Brown University
- 1983-86 Associate Professor, Brown University
- 1986-97 Professor, Brown University
- 1996-99 Director, Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, Singapore
- 1997-2000 Deputy Vice-Chancellor, National University of Singapore
- 2000-2008 Vice-Chancellor and President, National University of Singapore

Consultancies Held

- Consultant, National Aeronautics Space Administration
- Consultant, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Consultant, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Consultant, Battelle Columbus Laboratory
- Consultant, Army Materials and Mechanics Laboratory
- Consultant, Ontario Hydro, Canada

Offices/Memberships held

- Chairman, Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
- Chairman, Governing Board, APRU World Institute
- Chairman, Governing Board, Singapore-MIT Alliance
- Chairman, Board of NUS High School of Mathematics and Science
- Chairman, Committee on University Admission System, Singapore
- Chairman, Technical Committee on Fracture Mechanics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- Board Member, International Alliance of Research Universities
- Founding President, Material Research Society, Singapore Member, Economic Review Committee
- Board Member, National Research Foundation
- Member, Economic Development Board Executive Committee, Singapore
- Board Member, Universitas 21

- Board Member, ASEAN University Network
- Founding Governor, Board of Singapore International Foundation
- Governor, Board of Ong Teng Cheong Institute of Labour Studies
- Director, Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship
- Director, Singapore Millennium Foundation
- Appointing Governor, Institute of Policy Studies
- Member, MIT Corporation Visiting Committee, Department of Materials Science and Engineering
- Member ConFRAT, University Committee on Faculty Reappointment and Tenure, Brown University, USA
- Ex-officio, Governing Board, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
- Member, NUS Board of Trustees
- Member, Advisory Board, World Institute of Space Environment Research
- Member, Committee on Faculty Tenure Reappointment and Tenure, Brown University
- Member, A*Star Board
- Member, BioMedical Research Council
- Member, Science & Engineering Research Council
- Member, Economic Review Committee
- Honorary Member, International College of Surgeons, USA
- Honorary Member, Chinese Heritage Centre Council
- Member, Board of Trustees, Majulah Connection

Honours

- 1978 Best Paper Award, ASME Journal of Engineering Materials and Technology
- 1986 George Irwin Medal (American Society for Testing and Materials)
- 1989 Visiting Professor, Tokyo University, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- 1998 Swedlow Award (American Society for Testing and Materials)
- 1999 Fellow of Applied Mechanics Division (American Society of Mechanical Engineers)
- 2001 Honorary Member, National University of Singapore Society (NUS)
- 2004 Foreign Associate, National Academy of Engineering (USA)
- 2005 Highly-Cited Researcher in Engineering, Institute for Scientific Information
- 2005 Award of "la croix de Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur", the French Republic
- 2005 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by Loughborough University
- 2006 Foreign Honorary Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2007 Honorary Member, Medical Alumni Association, Singapore
- 2007 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, Waseda University
- 2007 Inaugural Recipient of the Asia Pacific, Chief Executive Leadership Award, Council for Advancement and Support of Education
- 2008 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, Brown University
- 2008 The Ted Belytschko Applied Mechanics Award by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Key Speeches

[Reflections on a Never-Ending Adventure](#) 

Appreciation Dinner | 8 November 2008

[Of Friends, Critics and Lovers](#) 

Commencement Dinner 2008 | 18 July 2008

[Head, Heart, and Luck: Reflections on Life](#) 

Commencement Address 2008 | 7 July 2008

[Our Journey: Promise and Perils](#) 

University Awards 2008 | 11 April 2008