



CITATION FOR PROFESSOR QUEK TONG BOON

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Professor Quek Tong Boon is currently the Chief Defence Scientist of the Singapore Ministry of Defence or MINDEF.

He graduated from the University of Cambridge, UK, in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Engineering, and Masters of Arts in Engineering in 1981. In 1985, he obtained his Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering from NUS. He attended the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School in 1995.

Prof Quek joined the Defence Science Organisation, or DSO, in 1980, holding various appointments, including Deputy Director for Technology. From June 1994 to December 1997, he was the Director of the Defence Materiel Organisation before becoming Chief Executive Officer of the DSO National Laboratories from January 1998 to January 2004. He was Deputy Secretary for Technology and Transformation of MINDEF from January 2004 till December 2008.

As the Chief Defence Scientist, he works closely with the Singapore Armed Forces, or SAF to match technological possibilities with operational requirements and to facilitate

the seamless transition of technologies from laboratories to operational capabilities in the SAF. He is a firm believer in leveraging our local technology ecosystem to multiply the capacity of the defence technology community. Prof Quek has therefore been very proactive in reaching out to our academia, research institutions and industry to create collaboration opportunities.

He is currently a member of several Boards including that of DSO National Laboratories, Defence Science and Technology Agency, Agency for Science, Technology & Research, Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited, and PUB, Singapore's national water agency.

Prof Quek shares our University's passion and commitment to education, research and service. In the higher education sector, he chairs the Management Boards for Temasek Laboratories at National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore Institute for Neurotechnology at NUS, and Temasek Defence Systems Institute at NUS. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of SUTD, Tropical Marine Science Institute Management Board at NUS, and Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing Management Board. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology Centre's Future Urban Mobility Research Group and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences as well. In addition, he chairs the International Advisory Panel for National Cybersecurity R&D and chaired the National Research Foundation's Robotics R&D Task Force.

He is an Adjunct Professor at NUS' Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

He exhorted researchers to set their aims high and made use of every available opportunity to demonstrate the potential of technology to users in the real world. As an example, he mentored a team of NUS researchers and students, encouraging them to demonstrate how their expertise in guidance, control, navigation and communications could be integrated to enable a synchronised and autonomous aerial dance by 16 drones in public. He attended their field trials and gave personal guidance and encouragement to the researchers and students in their research. Similarly, he tirelessly promoted and directed the demonstration of many other research work done in NUS for possible defence and security applications. Under his direction, some of the cutting-edge research work done in NUS has been transited and incorporated into defence systems and products developed by the defence technology community.

As the Chief Defence Scientist with many contacts round the world, he helped NUS to open doors to many renowned universities and research institutes. He arranged for NUS researchers to visit overseas laboratories and participate in collaborative research projects with overseas R&D partners including those from Australia, France, Sweden and the US.

Throughout his career, Prof Quek has demonstrated a visionary zeal in pursuing science and technology for national interest, and serves as an inspiring mentor to researchers to develop innovative R&D solutions.

Prof Quek was conferred the Singapore Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 1996, Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 2011, Honorary Fellow, Institution of Engineers, Singapore in 2009, the Chevalier (Knight) of Légion of Honour of the French Republic in

2011 and Fellow of the Academy of Engineering, Singapore in 2012.

We are pleased to honour Professor Quek Tong Boon this evening for his outstanding service to Singapore and NUS.