



CITATION FOR PROFESSOR TAN CHORH CHUAN OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Summarising Chorh Chuan's phenomenal transition from faculty member to leader as well as the stellar achievements of his distinguished career in less than 400 words is a monumental challenge, and I ask in advance for your understanding.

A Public Service Commission scholar, Chorh Chuan studied medicine at NUS, was awarded the Gordon Arthur Ransom Gold Medal as the top candidate in the Master of Medicine, Internal Medicine and subsequently received his doctorate here. In 1997, aged 38, he became the youngest faculty to be appointed Dean of the then NUS Faculty of Medicine.

From 2000 to 2004, Chorh Chuan became the first faculty member seconded to the Ministry of Health as Director of Medical Services, where he played a crucial role in managing the public health response to the 2003 SARS epidemic. His exemplary leadership was recognised with the Public Service Star award in 2003, followed by the Public Administration Gold Medal in 2004.

Following his return to NUS in 2004 as NUS Provost, Chorh Chuan played a key role in the establishment of the Duke-NUS Medical School as Deputy Chairman of the Governing Board from 2005 to 2008. As the inaugural Chief Executive of the National University Health System in 2008, he brought the NUS schools of medicine, dentistry and public health as well as the National University Hospital under a single governance.

Under his stewardship as NUS President from 2008 to 2017, the University made remarkable progress— from pioneering new models of teaching and learning such as

NUS University Town, to accelerating the pace of multidisciplinary research and entrepreneurship initiatives. He was also instrumental in setting up the Yale-NUS College, as a unique model of liberal arts education. NUS' reputation as a leading global university centred in Asia soared during his tenure as President. Chorh Chuan was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Singapore government in 2015. His global standing has been recognised by several international awards. Notably, he is the first Singaporean to be elected as an international member of the US National Academy of Medicine.

Last year, Chorh Chuan was appointed University Professor, NUS' highest academic appointment. This evening, we are privileged to mark Professor Tan Chorh Chuan's achievements and contributions to the National University of Singapore and Singapore with the Outstanding Service Award, a signal honour he so richly deserves.