

## **Dr Cheong Choong Kong**

### **Citation for conferral of Doctor of University (honoris causa) Ceremony 5, Wednesday 30 April 2014, 2:00pm**

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Dr Cheong Choong Kong.

Dr Cheong came to Australia as a Colombo Plan scholar, and graduated in 1964 from the University of Adelaide with a first class honours degree in mathematics. He moved to the Australian National University for his postgraduate work, receiving his MSc and PhD there in 1966 and 1968 respectively. His main fields of study were random processes and related areas of applied and theoretical probability.

He departed Canberra for Kuala Lumpur in 1968 and taught mathematics at the University of Malaya, rising to the rank of Associate Professor. In 1974 he joined Singapore Airlines. He spent 29 years at Singapore Airlines becoming Managing Director in 1984, and Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on 1 August 1996. In 1998, *Fortune* magazine named him Asian Businessman of the Year, noting that Singapore Airlines had had an "unbroken 27-year record of profitability through turbulent economic times."

Currently, he is Chairman of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation. He was first appointed to the board of OCBC on 1 July 1999. He served as Vice-Chairman from 26 March 2002 to 30 June 2003. On 1 July 2003, he was elected chairman of the board. He is now a Director of several companies, including Singapore Press Holdings Ltd, Great Eastern Holdings Ltd, Great Eastern Life Assurance Company Ltd and Overseas Assurance Corporation Ltd.

Dr Cheong served as Chairman of the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation and of its successor, Singapore International Media, from July 1989 to September 1995. He has also served as the Chairman of the Council of the National University of Singapore. His service was for two consecutive two-year terms ending on July 31, 2004. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Singapore-US Business Council.

Dr Cheong has served on the board of the non-profit Singapore International Foundation which, through shared ideas, skills and experiences, aims to uplift lives and create greater understanding between Singaporeans and world communities.

In 1998 Dr Cheong received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide in recognition of sustained and distinguished service as an alumnus to management and communication especially in Singapore.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the degree of Doctor of University (honoris causa) — Dr Cheong Choong Kong.