

## **Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam**

### **Citation for conferral of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) 17 June 2014**

Chancellor, I present to you His Excellency, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore.

Dr Tan was born in Singapore and received his early education at St Patrick's School and St Joseph's Institution. He graduated from the University of Singapore with a First Class Honours Degree in Physics and as top of his class in 1962. He then went on to obtain a Master of Science degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Applied Mathematics at the University of Adelaide.

Dr Tan started his career as a lecturer with the Physics Department of the University of Singapore in 1964, after obtaining his Master of Science degree. He joined the University again as a lecturer with the Department of Mathematics after obtaining his doctorate in 1967. In 1969, he left the University to begin a career in banking with the Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), where he rose to become General Manager.

He left OCBC in 1979 to enter politics, when he was elected as a Member of Parliament and appointed Senior Minister of State in the Ministry of Education. In the following years he served as the Minister for Finance and concurrently as the Minister for Trade and Industry, then as Minister for Education.

In 1991, he chose to return to the private sector as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of OCBC. He re-joined the Cabinet in 1995 and was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence.

Dr Tan retired from the Cabinet in September 2005 and was appointed Deputy Chairman and Executive Director of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Private Limited (GIC), Chairman of the National Research Foundation and Deputy Chairman of the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council, and Chairman of Singapore Press Holdings Limited (SPH).

In 2011, he stepped down from his positions at the GIC and SPH to contest in the Presidential Election. He was elected on 27 August 2011, and sworn in as the seventh President of the Republic of Singapore on 1 September 2011. He also became the 9<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the National University of Singapore.

For his contributions towards Singapore's development into a global hub of scientific research and education in his earlier roles as Education Minister and subsequently as Chairman of the National Research Foundation, he was inducted into the Honorary Senate of the Foundation Lindau Nobel Prize Winners Meetings in July 2012.

Dr Tan is highly respected for his long record of outstanding achievements both as a leader in the Singapore government and in the business sectors. He is a distinguished member of the University of Adelaide's alumni, an outstanding advocate for educational and cultural relations between Australia and Singapore, and a true friend of the University of Adelaide.

Chancellor, for his exceptional contributions to public life, I am pleased and proud to present to you His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa*.