

**CITATION BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR YEOH KHAY GUAN  
DEAN, YONG LOO LIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
PUBLIC ORATOR FOR PROFESSOR SAW SWEE HOCK  
HONORARY DEGREE OF LETTERS RECIPIENT  
AT THE HONORARY DEGREE CONFERMENT CEREMONY  
MONDAY, 6 JULY 2015, 11.00 AM  
AT THE UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE**

Exemplary Scholar, Eminent Teacher, Philanthropist Extraordinaire, Professor Saw Swee Hock is all of these and more. Over the course of more than four decades, Prof Saw has done much to transform and advance tertiary education in Singapore, as well as in China, England and USA. He has done this through his personal career in academia as well as through his far-reaching philanthropy.

As a student Professor Saw studied at the then-University of Malaya in Singapore, before receiving his PhD in Statistics from the London School of Economics in 1963. He joined the University of Malaya as a Lecturer in Statistics, and then joined the University of Hong Kong as the Founding Professor of Statistics from 1969 to 1971, before resuming his academic career in NUS as Professor of Statistics in 1975. He is currently President's Honorary Professor of Statistics in NUS and Professorial Fellow in the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. His prodigious academic output is a set of statistics in their own right – Prof Saw has authored or edited 50 books, 7 monographs, 31 book chapters and over 130 articles. Yet this prolific output is only one aspect of the achievements of the man we are honouring today. Prof Saw has also given his time and energy to teaching at distinguished overseas tertiary institutions, as Visiting Scholar to Princeton University, Stanford University, London University and Cambridge University, as well as Honorary Professor in Xiamen University and the University of Hong Kong.

Prof Saw has also advised governments and global organisations. He has held Singapore Government appointments that called on his expertise on statistics. For example, he was the inaugural Chairman of the National Statistical Commission of Singapore from 1972 to 1975. He has also been a member of the Scientific Subcommittee of the World Health Foundation (HK), the Advisory Panel of World Population Society, UN Advisory Committee on Post-Adjustment Questions, and the Steering Committee of the Singapore MRT system. He has chaired the Singapore Agricultural Census Committee, the Singapore Labour Force Committee, the Regional Search Committee for Asia of the International Statistical Institute, and was also the Founding President of the Singapore Institute of Statistics, and Vice-President of the Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science.

The accomplishments that I have listed thus far in this citation would have already have left many of us struggling to catch up with the sheer scale of Prof Saw's contributions to academic and civic society. Now, let me recount the other profound dimension of this remarkable man's contributions, his philanthropy. In particular, Prof Saw has given very generously to charitable causes in education. I can do no better than to quote him, "To me, education is the main medium to uplift the needy and poor and provides the key to social mobility." Prof Saw has helped many generations of young people to attain a University education. Many universities have received his support for the establishment of medals, bursaries, scholarships, professorships, research projects, research centres and buildings. Recipients of his gifts include his alma mater the National University of Singapore, the London School of Economics, Xiamen University, University of Hong Kong, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University.

For NUS, in which he has enjoyed a lifelong relationship as a student, as faculty and as a member of the Board of Trustees, Prof Saw has set up an endowed bursary fund which has so far benefitted over 150 final year needy students across all faculties/schools. Prof Saw has also contributed to making education at NUS among the best in the world, through his gifts which have created a Professorship in Statistics, a Centennial Professorship in Law, the Saw Centre for Financial Studies, and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. The last is a seminal gift that is helping to catalyse the training of public health professionals and power innovative research on novel models of public health and healthcare delivery. This is an area that he is passionate about, and on which he has been quoted thus: "It is my wish for the School to play a key role in helping improve the standard of public healthcare in Singapore and the surrounding region in the years ahead."

For his truly outstanding philanthropic efforts, Prof Saw was honoured with the President's Award for Philanthropy in October 2013, and named as one of 48 Heroes of Philanthropy in the Asia-Pacific region by Forbes Asia Magazine in 2014.

Throughout his life's work, Prof Saw has been supported by his wife, Dr Cheng Siok Hwa, an NUS alumna and a former faculty member of the Department of History, as well as their two daughters and son. His family is here with us today to witness this signal honour in the life of a truly eminent teacher and benefactor.

Mr Chancellor, may it please you to confer on Professor Saw Swee Hock the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters.