



HIGHEST RECOGNITION: Mr Goh receiving his honorary degree of Doctor of Laws yesterday from Dr Tan, who is NUS' chancellor. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

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## ESM Goh lauded for public-service work

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**S**INGAPORE'S second prime minister yesterday received the highest recognition from his alma mater, the National University of Singapore (NUS).

Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong, who was prime minister from 1990 to 2004, was presented with an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws for his contributions in public service.

He has been ESM and senior adviser to the Monetary Authority of Singapore since May 2011.

In a reflective speech, the 74-year-old offered life lessons to 150 accountancy graduands at NUS' main commencement ceremony yesterday.

"First, while you cannot predict your future, you have control over some parts. You can scan and prepare for the terrain ahead: the geopolitical environment, the global economic outlook, Singapore's demography, society's changing attitude, technology and political developments.

"Second, have a sense of duty: duty to family and country," he said, before quipping: "Be bold and carve out new paths... You do not have to take the path of politics, but please do if you are invited for tea sessions."

Dean Brenda Yeoh of NUS' Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, who delivered the citation, described Mr Goh as one whose life has been "closely entwined with the fortunes of this country".

Mr Goh graduated from the then University of Singapore with first-class honours in economics in 1964, and started as an administrative service officer in the economic planning unit in the Prime Minister's Office.

In 1976, he was persuaded by then finance minister Hon Sui Sen to stand for elections as a candidate in Marine Parade, a position he still holds.

As prime minister, he set in motion policies ranging from setting up the Workforce Development Agency to starting endowment funds for groups in need.

Yesterday, President Tony Tan Keng Yam, who is also NUS' chancellor, awarded honorary degrees to two other eminent individuals.

Saw Swee Hock was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters for his contributions in the field of statistics and demography, and his philanthropic work.

Richard Brook Sykes was given the honorary Doctor of Science for his research work and achievements in biomedical sciences.

Some 10,219 graduates will receive bachelor or graduate degrees this year from NUS, in ceremonies to be held until next Tuesday.

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