



CITATION FOR PROFESSOR CHOO CHIAU BENG
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Professor Choo Chiau Beng is widely recognised as an outstanding captain of industry who has established Singapore as a world leader in the highly competitive field of offshore and marine engineering. After obtaining a First Class Honours Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Naval Architecture from the University of Newcastle where he was a Colombo Plan Scholar, Chiau Beng joined Keppel Shipyard in 1971 as a Ship Repair Management Trainee. He rose speedily through its ranks, and in 1975, together with his team, Chiau Beng set up Keppel's shipyard in the Philippines. There, he served as Executive Vice President and CEO for four years.

On his return to Singapore, he joined Keppel Far East Levingston (Keppel FELS), and became its Managing Director in 1983. Keppel FELS eventually became Keppel Offshore & Marine (or Keppel O&M), which he led with great distinction as CEO. Keppel O&M is known throughout the offshore industry for the quality and advanced design of its offshore technology, and has captured a significant proportion of the world market in jackup rigs against fierce competition.

In January 2009, Chiau Beng became CEO of Keppel Corporation Limited, and under

his able leadership, the organisation has become one of Singapore's most internationally recognised multinational corporations. His leadership of Keppel was honoured by multiple awards, including the prestigious CEO of the Year Award from the Singapore Corporate Awards in 2010. He has also made many significant contributions in public service, notably in the education and maritime sectors.

Chiau Beng's close association with NUS dates back to 2002 when he was the main driver in the establishment of the NUS Keppel Chair Professorship in Ocean, Offshore and Marine Technology. The Keppel Chair Professorship led to the setting up of the NUS Centre for Offshore Research and Engineering or CORE, which is now recognised internationally as a leading R&D centre in offshore and marine engineering. He also spearheaded the establishment of NUS-Keppel Corporate Laboratory in 2013, further strengthening this close relationship.

Following his retirement from Keppel Corporation, Chiau Beng has continued to be greatly sought after and highly regarded for his wealth of experience, insight and acumen. His deep interest in education and his involvement with NUS in particular were further boosted in 2014 with his appointments as Rector of Residential College 4, as well as Provost's Chair and Professor (Practice) in NUS Engineering and NUS Business School. He has unstintingly contributed much of his expertise and experience to both NUS Engineering and NUS Business School.

Chiau Beng has generously shared his experiences of international business with the Business School students, to help them stay grounded with the right ethical values. These experiences were drawn from his own personal journey and the challenges he

faced when he was CEO of Keppel Corporation and Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Brazil.

Chiau Beng has also served tirelessly and with distinction as Chairman of the Management Board of the NUS Centre for Maritime Studies or CMS, where his guidance and leadership have been key factors in the growth and development of CMS. CMS is deeply indebted to him for his stewardship which has spurred the Centre's development into a compact, cost-effective and internationally recognised research centre serving the ports and maritime industry.

At the Energy Studies Institute at NUS, Chiau Beng has been an active Board Member for almost a decade since the Institute's establishment in 2007 until he stepped down in August last year. He is currently Sponsorship Chair of the 40th Annual Conference of the International Association for Energy Economics, which will be held in Singapore in June this year.

Chiau Beng's public service has been lauded at the national level with the Meritorious Service Medal in 2008, the NTUC Medal of Commendation (Gold) Award in 2007 and the Public Service Star Award in 2004.

We are happy and privileged this evening to be able to celebrate Professor Choo Chiau Beng's sterling service to NUS and to the nation with the Outstanding Service Award which he so richly deserves.