

NUS head to get honorary degree from Duke

NATIONAL University of Singapore (NUS) president Tan Chorh Chuan is among seven people who will get honorary degrees from Duke University this year.

The renowned institution, based in North Carolina in the United States, said in a statement that it had chosen to award the degree to Professor Tan, 51, in recognition of his contributions to biomedical sciences, public health and higher education.

He will be given an Honorary Doctor of Science at Duke's commencement ceremony on May 15.

Commenting on the seven recipients, Duke president Richard Brodhead said: "They give an inspiring example of the great lives that men and women can give to the world. They will send our students off with the message – Now it's your turn to live up to your highest potential."



Prof Tan was lauded for his contributions to biomedical sciences, public health and higher education. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

This is Prof Tan's second honorary degree. In 2009, he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science from Loughborough University in Britain.

The renal physician has been the president of NUS since 2008. He is also deputy chairman of Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and chairs the International Alliance of Research Universities, a network of 10 institutions, including NUS and Oxford.

Prof Tan said the honorary degree from Duke is a "recognition of the excellent progress that Singapore has made in biomedical sciences and higher education, which I feel very fortunate to have been able to play a small part in".

Previous Duke honorary degree recipients include Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, Nobel geneticists Michael Brown and Joseph Goldstein, and talk show host Oprah Winfrey.