

Victoria University of Technology

Citation JEFFREY CHEAH

Chancellor,

Victoria University of Technology was founded in 1990 by an Act of the Victorian State Government and, on 1 January 1992 the Institutes from which it was to be formed amalgamated and the University operated as a single entity.

In 1970, one of the Institutes, the Footscray Institute of Technology, awarded to Jeffrey Cheah a Diploma of Business Studies. The award and the course of studies upon which it was based, marked the beginning of a relationship between Jeffrey Cheah and Victoria University of Technology which reaches a very important stage in this Ceremony.

Following the award of his Diploma, Jeffrey Cheah returned to Malaysia and began to develop his professional career. In 1974, he founded what was to become the SungeiWay Group of Companies and he now holds the position of President of a conglomerate that is based here in Kuala Lumpur and operates in four countries. The continuing successes of the company he founded are a testament to Jeffrey Cheah's entrepreneurship, business acumen and concern for the wellbeing of all who work in it.

In 1987, Jeffrey Cheah established Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur, an innovative educational institution from which, after completing two years of tertiary study, its students travel to an overseas institution to qualify for their degree. The educational program provided by Sunway College is in accord with its founder's understanding of the need for educated people to be exposed to societies and cultures other than their own. Jeffrey Cheah has presided over the establishment of twinning agreements, a concept he devised, with eight international institutions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, thereby facilitating international exchange programs for Malaysian students.

In 1988, the Sultan of Selangor conferred upon Jeffrey Cheah the title Dato' Paduka Mahkota Selangor, in recognition of his contributions to the State of Selangor.

In his professional life as an international business leader and in his personal commitment to the educational enterprise across the international community, Jeffrey Cheah has demonstrated high intellectual and cultural achievement and a compassionate regard for his compatriots and others.

Victoria University is fortunate in having Jeffrey Cheah as one of its most distinguished graduates. He has demonstrated his own regard for the education he received by providing from his personal resources four scholarships to assist overseas students to attend the University.

The award of an honorary degree is a rare event for a university and it is the unanimous decision of the Council of Victoria University of Technology that Jeffrey Cheah should be the first person to receive such an award.

Chancellor, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to industry, commerce and higher education in Malaysia and especially to the internationalisation of university level education and for his services to Victoria University of Technology through the promotion of its activities as both an alumnus and benefactor, I have the honour to present to you, Dato' Jeffrey Cheah, Diploma of Business Studies of the Footscray Institute of Technology, for admission to the Degree of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*.

(Read by Prof. Jarlath Ronayne, Vice – Chancellor)