



Professor Timothy W. Tong, Ph.D.

Professor Timothy W. Tong takes office as the new President of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University with effect from 1 January 2009. Prior to his current appointment, Professor Tong was Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) at The George Washington University (GW) in the U.S.

Professor Tong was born and raised in Hong Kong. After completing his secondary education, he pursued further studies in the U.S., where he received his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University (OSU) in 1976, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in the same discipline from the University of California at Berkeley in 1978 and 1980 respectively. He completed his doctoral studies under the supervision of the late prominent educator Professor Tien Chang-Lin.

A highly accomplished academic in the field of heat transfer, Professor Tong specializes in thermal and energy systems. He has published over eighty technical articles and edited seven conference proceedings. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences and the International Thermal Conductivity Conference. Professor Tong was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Engineers and the Engineering Hall of Fame by OSU in 2001 and 2010 respectively.

Professor Tong started his academic career in 1980 at the University of Kentucky and subsequently served in different capacities at Arizona State University (ASU), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Before joining GW, he served as Professor and Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Colorado State University.

Professor Tong was voted, for three consecutive years from 1994 to 1996, Teacher of the Year by the ASU Chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, and received the Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers in recognition of his innovative approaches to teaching.

During Professor Tong's eight years as Dean of SEAS, the School grew from strength to strength. With an annual revenue of about US\$50 million, the School had 230 full-time and part-time faculty members and approximately 2,500 students – almost 80 per cent of whom were postgraduate students. Under his Deanship, SEAS established partnerships with educational institutions in Europe, Middle East, Asia and Australia; partnerships that included collaborative research projects, joint degree programs, exchange of students, exchange of faculty, and sponsorships of graduate students studying at GW. The School's annual research funding grew by about 40%. In 2004, the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) rates SEAS at GW 1st in the U.S. in the percentage of doctoral degrees awarded to women. In 2006, ASEE ranked GW SEAS 16th in the U.S. for the number of master's degrees awarded.

Professor Tong substantially expanded the School's internship initiative, so that students would graduate with appropriate work experience. He also established a Council on Entrepreneurial Technology Transfer and Commercialisation to create an entrepreneurial culture among students, faculty and alumni.

Professor Tong also provided consultancy services to many major corporations and research institutions such as Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, Motorola, FMC and Oakridge National Laboratory. He was Program Director at NSF, where he established a jointly funded programme with SNL. He also served as Acting Director of the Center for Energy Systems Research at ASU.

Professor Tong has been actively involved in the work of many academic and professional organisations. Major organisations he has served include the NSF Engineering Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, the School of Engineering Advisory Committee and the Mechanical Engineering Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. From 2007 to 2008, he was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Heat Transfer Division of ASME.