NTU don to get rare academic honour

By Leow Si Wan

Professor Eddie Kuo will become only the second academic at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to be named Emeritus Professor on Jan 1.

The academic rank, a university's highest, was first earned by engineering don and former NTU deputy president Chen Charsng Ning in 2001.

Said Prof Kuo at a celebration with colleagues and friends last night: "This is a great honour I humbly accept. I have been an academic throughout my life."

"With this title, I am glad I can continue to be part of the NTU community after my retirement. I will be glad to serve the university and the community in a different capacity," added the 70-year-old who is married with two children.

He has worked at NTU since 1992 as the founding dean of the School of Communication Studies. He is currently teaching at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

NTU president Su Guanming, who was at the gathering, said: "The title of Emeritus Professor is bestowed only on the most highly respected academics and it is a rare honour to be selected."

Prof Kuo had made many contributions to NTU, he added, in particular, his laying of a strong foundation for the humanities and social sciences disciplines.

He said Prof Kuo's contributions extended beyond NTU and that he has worked to "positively influence people's lives and society" in his diverse community involvement.

Before joining NTU, Prof Kuo headed the sociology and mass communications departments at the National University of Singapore.

In a teaching and academic career spanning four decades, he has established a firm reputation as a scholar, teacher and education policymaker.

At NTU, he was also the founding dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and executive director of the Singapore Internet Research Centre, and sits on the university's Institutional Review Board.

As one of the pioneer researchers in sociology and communication studies, he was also the founding editor of the Asian Journal of Communication.

His involvement in grassroots associations included serving as a council member of the Chinese Development Assistance Council and member of the Committee of Trustees of the Chinese Language Journalism Fund.