SINGAPORE - Known by some as the founding father of communication studies here, Professor Eddie C Y Kuo [picture] will next month be conferred the title of "Emeritus Professor" by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The title, conferred only on retired professors with sterling service records, recognises his 40-year career as an influential scholar, educator and policymaker.

Prof Kuo, 70, was the founding dean of NTU's School of Communication Studies (now the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information) from 1992 to 2003. He was a champion of Chinese language and culture and also played a leading role in setting up the university's humanities, arts and social sciences degree programmes.

He called his new title a "great honour" that would enable him to continue being part of NTU even after retirement. He now teaches a graduate course in Philosophy of Research and is part of NTU's Institutional Review Board.

More than 100 friends and colleagues paid tribute to him at a tea reception on Friday. "Eddie is your classic gentleman-scholar," said Professor Ang Peng Hwa.

He said the groundwork laid by Prof Kuo had enabled the school of communication studies to build a reputation and attract talent.

NTU's first Emeritus Professor was engineering don Chen Chang-Ning, who was awarded the honour in 2001.