NTU don knighted by French government

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Linette Lai

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) don Lam Khin Yong has been made a knight in the Legion of Honour - one of the highest decorations awarded by the French government.

Professor Lam, who is acting provost of NTU, was given the award on Wednesday evening during a ceremony held at the French Residence in Singapore, NTU said in a statement yesterday.

The French Residence is the home of the ambassador of France to Singapore, Mr Marc Abensour.

The award celebrates the role Prof Lam played in building academic and industry collaborations for the university, which also strengthened bilateral ties between France and Singapore.

He is the second Singaporean this year to receive the award.

People who have received it in previous years include Mr Lim Chuan Poh, chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research, and Professor Low Teck Seng, chief executive of the National Research Foundation.

Prof Lam, who is also chief of staff and vice-president of research at NTU, was actively involved in the university's tie-ups with French companies and research institutions.

It currently has 84 active agreements with French organisations. These include joint projects with French firms on topics such as power grids and sustainability technologies.

Mr Abensour said that the two countries "share many similarities in both values and outlook, with both... investing massively in research innovations".

He added: "Individuals such as Professor Lam Khin Yong have been key actors in reinforcing those ties, by advancing research collaborations and innovations, and nurturing international industry partnerships."

Prof Lam said that the award was a testament to the strong bilateral ties, adding: "NTU has a strong legacy of ties with France and our partnership with prestigious French universities and companies will only continue to deepen."