Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam receiving the honorary degree from President Halimah Yacob at Nanyang Technological University yesterday. PHOTO: JIAWEI ZAOBAO

Top NTU honour for former president Tony Tan

He receives honorary Doctor of Letters for contributions to NTU and higher education

Amelia Teng
Education Correspondent

Former president Tony Tan Keng Yam received the highest honour from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) yesterday.

In a citation, Mr Koh Boon Hwee, chairman of NTU’s Board of Trustees, said Dr Tan played an instrumental role in setting up NTU and the National University of Singapore (NUS) as the minister-in-charge of both institutions.

“The collaboration between disciplines is not only necessary to advance research – it is critical if we are to tackle the challenges of the future. Medicine needs the humanities to stay ethical; even as technology enables great efficiencies, it is calling into question the very nature of work and what it is to be human.”

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Dr Tan’s leadership from 2011 until last year

Two other individuals were presented with honorary degrees – former head of civil service Peter Ho and Lee Foundation chairman Lee Seng Teo.

Mr Ho, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science, had a career in public service spanning more than 34 years, with 15 years as permanent secretary in several ministries.

Now senior adviser at the Centre for Strategic Futures, Mr Ho is also chairman of the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering, set up by NTU in partnership with NUS.

In a citation, Dr Tan encouraged the graduands to keep learning within and across disciplines.

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From the new academic year starting next month, undergraduates can take modules on digital literacy, which will cover the ethical and human aspects of digitisation.

A total of 9,755 graduands will be conferred their degrees over 20 ceremonies taking place from yesterday until next Thursday.

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