



## **FACT SHEET**

**Embargoed until 26 July 05, 1pm**

**Total: 3 pgs including this pg**

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**Singapore, 26 July 2005**

### **THE ALBERT WINSEMIUS PROFESSORSHIP**

Nanyang Technological University established the Albert Winsemius Professorship in 1997 as a lasting tribute to Dr Albert Winsemius for his significant contributions to the economic development of Singapore.

The Albert Winsemius Professorship is awarded to renowned scholars. They are appointed to help review and develop NTU's curriculum, teach, initiate and undertake joint research projects with the university's staff, give public lectures and conduct seminars. The chair professorship is awarded to Professor (Prof) Lim Chong Yah.

### **About Dr Albert Winsenius (1910-1996)**

From a poverty-stricken, post-colonial-era independent society to what it is today - a thriving and beautiful city, Singapore owes a great deal to Dr Albert Winsemius, the Dutch Economist who was Singapore's long-time economic advisor for his invaluable contribution to its development.

Dr Winsemius's association with Singapore began in 1960 when he led a United Nations team to Singapore for a survey on Singapore's potential in industrialisation. In 1961, after a year of surveying, he came up with a 10-year development plan to transform Singapore into a high technology and high-valued added industrial hub. He went on to become Singapore's chief economic advisor, a position which he held for almost 25 years. During his term, he visited Singapore two or three times a year

without fail to review economic performance indicators and to discuss macro-economic strategy with government planners.

For his contributions to Singapore's economic development, he was conferred several honours. In 1967, President Yusof Ishak awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal. In 1970, he was conferred an honorary degree by the University of Singapore. In 1976, he received the National Trades Union Congress' May Day Gold Medal of Honour.

Dr Winsemius retired as Singapore's economic advisor in 1983 and passed away on 4 Dec 1996. The death of a brilliant man who took great pride in Singapore's achievements was a great loss to Singapore. In his letter of condolences to Dr Albert Winsemius's family, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew wrote: "It was Singapore's good fortune that he took a deep and personal interest in Singapore's development. Singapore and I personally are indebted to him for the time, energy and development he gave to Singapore. I am proud to have known him and to have been his friend."

#### **Citation on Prof Lim Chong Yah, Albert Winsemius Chair Professor**

Prof Lim Chong Yah contributed much to the economic development of Singapore as founding Chairman of National Wage Council for over 29 years.

Prof Lim is a prominent academic researcher in his own right. He has 27 books, 30 chapters in books, 44 articles in referenced academic journals and 49 international conference papers to his credit. Some of his publications have been translated into Chinese, Malay and Japanese. One has gone into Braille. He is currently with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and is also Director of the new Economic Growth Centre at NTU. Previously, he was with the National University of Singapore (NUS) from 1969 – 1992, during which he served as elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics, and Senior Professor of the University.

Prof Lim also played an important role outside the academia. Other than being the founding Chairman of the National Wages Council (1972 - 2001), he was also founding Chairman of the Skills Development Fund Advisory Council (1979 - 1982). He served as President of the Economics Society of Singapore from 1973 to 1991, and is currently a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights. Regionally, he was the initiator and founder of the Federation of Asean Economic Associations (FAEA), Co-founder of the East Asian Economic Association (EAEA) and founding Chairman of the Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Co-operation (SINCPEC).

Prof Lim joined the Singapore Administrative Service in 1955 prior to joining the academia in 1959. Among the positions he held in the Singapore Administrative Service were Assistant Financial Secretary and Second Assistant Economic Adviser.

His private sector experience includes, at varying times, being on the Board of Directors of the Commercial and Industrial Bank, Delifrance Asia, the Straits Trading Company, the United Overseas Bank and International Adviser to NEC (Japan). Prior to this, his outside consultation experience included being the Economic Consultant to First National City Bank (in Kuala Lumpur), the Bank of Tokyo (in Singapore), Senior Economic Adviser to ECAFE, Economic Consultant to the World Bank Lester Pearson Commission, Economic Consultant to the UNESCO-IAU Project on Higher Education and Southeast Asian Development. In 2002, he also served as Consultant to the Mauritian Government on Wage Reforms.

Prof Lim was given many honours, including a Honorary Doctorate by Soka University, the John W. Ryan Alumni Award by Indiana University, the Honorary Chairmanship of the Hainan University Council by the Provincial Government of Hainan, the Honorary Professorship by Hainan University, the Distinguished Service Award by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) Singapore, the Distinguished Service Order by the Singapore Government and an Emeritus Professorship by NUS. The Lim Chong Yah Professorship was also established in his honour at NUS in 2001.

For his distinguished and invaluable many-faceted contributions to higher education, scholarship, research and publication and to society and particularly to NTU as an educator, researcher, economist and author, Prof Lim was appointed the Albert Winsemius Chair Professor with effect from 1 January 2005.

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