A Toast to Professor Ma Kai-Kuang

What does becoming a full professor in NTU mean to you? Does it change your expectation about your academic career?

It has a tremendous impact on me. Ever since my high school days (for some inexplicable reasons that I cannot fathom myself), I have always had this ambition to obtain a PhD degree in electrical/electronic engineering from an institute in the United States and eventually to become a full Professorship in a well-recognized university. I feel fortunate in having the opportunity to start off my academic career from this large EEE family at NTU in early 1995 and to be given the privilege of contributing, learning and growing with EEE. Achieving the title of a full Professor is not the end of the proverbial road for me. On the contrary, it merely starts a new chapter, bringing with it more expectations, goals and a constant aspiration to achieve.

What is your future plan to further enhance your reputation as the premier researcher in your field?

Mainly, it will consist of producing useful research results (papers, patents, international standards) with which will have important impact on the EEE community. It is also imperative to build up more international research collaborations. Furthermore, I will continue to play an active role as a member of international technical committees as well as to serve as an Associate Editor of well-received international journals in my research areas.

What advice would you give to novice researchers who are starting out?

To me, research is a long-term commitment. It should be interesting, fun, and rewarding. I hope you find the case similar. It is important to make sure that the field you have chosen has ample room for you to grow and potentially to make an impact. You should, as early as you can, identify the mainstream research field in which you think would be involved in, as your time and energy are all precious and very limited! Once it is identified, be focused!

Last but not least, make sure you have a balanced life. Good health and a constantly refreshed spirit are essential to your research. You definitely need to work on that, too!