Honorary degree for Lee Foundation chairman

CHAIRMAN of the Lee Foundation Lee Seng Gee has been conferred an honorary degree by Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

He received the degree from the President of Singapore and chancellor of NTU, Mr S R Nathan, in a private ceremony held last week.

The university said that the degree – Doctor of Letters – was given to recognise Dr Lee’s lifelong achievements as a distinguished business leader and an outstanding philanthropist and for his significant contributions to education in Singapore.

NTU said that Dr Lee had honoured the legacy of his father, the late Tan Sri Dr Lee Kong Chian, by his stewardship of both the Lee Foundation and the Lee Group of Companies.

The Lee Foundation has become synonymous with philanthropy in Singapore, the university said. Dr Lee Kong Chian was a strong supporter of Nanyang University.

Dr Lee Seng Gee said in his acceptance speech: “I share this love of learning and the importance of education with my late father. We both believe that education has the power to make society more equal for every member of society. Education plays an important role in helping people learn to be responsible members of society.”

Among the guests at the ceremony were the chairman of the NTU board of trustees Koh Boon Hwee; pro-chancellors Chandra Das, Wee Cho Yaw and Herman Hochstadt; NTU president Su Guaning; and chairman of National Research Foundation Tony Tan.

In 2005, the Lee Foundation donated to the NTU Endowment Fund to support the Institute of Advanced Studies, which allowed the university to launch programmes with visits by prominent scientists, including Nobel laureates.