



LI, Hsi-Mou (1896 ~ 1975)

Hsi-Mou Li was born on September 5, 1896 in the Chiashan Prefecture of Chechiang Province. He was renowned as a child prodigy in his hometown and went on to study electrical engineering at Shanghai Industrial College (predecessor to Chiao Tung University). He won a scholarship from Chechiang Province to study in the U.S. and became an overseas student. After completing a master's degree in electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1918; he continued on to carry out research work at Harvard University and received a Ph.D.

Upon completing his studies, he returned to China where he taught at Chechiang University and Chinan University while holding posts such as Dean of Engineering and Dean of Academic Affairs. When Chiao Tung University was re-established in Chungking in 1941, Li returned to his *alma mater* as the dean of academic affairs at the invitation of university president Wu Pao-feng. When the War of Resistance against Japan was won, Chiao Tung University returned to Shanghai. As a professor at the university and the deputy director-general of the Shanghai Special City Education Bureau he made many contributions to education in the liberated area. Li was elected to the 1st National Assembly in 1947. In 1949 he appointed as official UNESCO representative in Japan. After returning to Taiwan in 1953, he became the director of the Provincial Museum, the Executive Secretary of the Executive Yuan Atomic Energy Council and Chairman of the Ministry of Education's Science Education Council.

In 1958, the Minister of Education Mei Tai-chi invited him to become the Vice Minister of Education. When Chiao Tung University was re-established the following year in Taiwan with the opening of the Institute of Electronics, Li was invited to become the institute's first dean. Much of NCTU's preeminence in electronics technology today can be attributed to the efforts of Li at the time.

In 1964, the Ministry of Education determined that the institute's faculty and facilities had been developed sufficiently to accept undergraduate students. The first two departments to be established were Electronic Engineering and Electrophysics. These became the spearhead of NCTU's formal restoration. In 1967, approval was given to establish the College of Engineering. In the same year, Li completed three terms as Dean of Electronics and returned to the Atomic Energy Council as a full-time council member.

In 1970, Li became the Dean of Science at Soochow University at the invitation of its university president Tuan Mu-kai. Though he was almost eighty years old by then, he was still filled with enthusiasm for education and commuted between Taipei and Waishuanghsi on a daily basis. His tireless spirit and energy set a great example to all. Li was also known for his strong constitution and he took cold baths even in deep winter so everyone expected him to live to a ripe old age. On February 26, 1975 he suffered a cardiac arrest in his Taipei home and passed away at the age of eighty.

(By Chou Chun-Yu, Class of '98, Applied Chemistry)

