



KUO, Nan-Hung

When NCTU was re-established in Taiwan in 1958, the Graduate Institute of Electronics was the first academic unit to be setup and also the first tertiary education and research organization dedicated to electronics in Taiwan. Over the past thirty or so years, the first students to enroll in NCTU have now all taken root and blossomed in their respective fields. Among the first class of graduates, it has been the career of Dr. Nan-Hung Kuo who served as the Minister of Transportation and Communications and the Minister of the National Science Council that has attracted the most attention.

After graduating in electrical engineering from NTU in 1958, Kuo applied to both NCTU Institute of Electronics and NTHU Institute of Nuclear Science. Though his family wanted him to choose NTHU, he had studied electronics at NTU. His friends urged him to study at NCTU as well so he eventually chose the NCTU.

After graduating from NCTU, he studied in the U.S. and received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Northwest University. He then accepted an invitation from Dean of Engineering Chung Chiao-kung (NCTU had not yet received full university status) to teach at his *alma mater*. Though NTU Department of Electrical Engineering wanted to offer Kuo a position as well, the NTU offer arrived after the NCTU offer, so he chose to teach at NCTU instead. When Premier Yu Kuo-hua reshuffled the cabinet in 1987, he recruited Kuo, who was at the time the president of NCTU, to become the Minister of Transportation and Communications. He later became the Minister for the National Science Council as well. At the time, the focus of NSC was not on research funding, but how the experience of the Hsinchu Science-based Industrial Park could be successfully transplanted to southern Taiwan in order to extend the golden age of the technology industry and stimulate national economic and technological development.

Kuo's career spanned the academia and government sector. He became President of NCTU in 1978 and served for nine years. When Kuo began teaching at NCTU, it was still an independent college at the time. When Dean Liu Hao-chun became critically ill, Kuo was named the acting dean in 1975. A year later, he transferred to the Ministry of the Education to become the Director of Technological and Vocational Education. After two and half years with the Department of Technological and Vocational Education, he was appointed the Principal of the National Kaohsiung Institute of Technology. After one semester former NCTU, president Ling Hung-hsun personally asked him to return to NCTU to become the new university president. One incident that left a strong impression on Kuo was when

former NCTU president Ling, despite his advanced years, insisted on attending a meeting in Taipei in his wheelchair. This brought home to Kuo how "the school was like their children and must be carefully looked after." Such concern and tremendous support for their *alma mater* is indeed a unique feature of NCTU culture.

(By Chiang Le-wen)

