



LING, Hung-Hsun (1894 ~ 1981)

Hung-Hsun Ling was born on April 15 1894, in what is now Guangdong City. His family came from the Chiangsu region in Chiangsu Province. In the summer of 1910 he passed the competitive examination to enter the Shanghai Industrial College of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs (hereafter referred to as the "Shanghai School") though he first spent a year in 4th year of the affiliated junior high school. This became the start of Ling's long association with the school.

In June 1915, Ling graduated in civil engineering from Nanyang College and at the recommendation of Tang Wen-chih, interned at a bridge-building company in the U.S. for three years. During this time, he attended Columbia University's night school to study related courses. Ling returned to China in June 1918, at the age of 25.

In 1920, he was invited by School President Tang Wen-chih to be a substitute teacher for one year. In October of the same year, Tang's eyesight deteriorated and he also wished to spend more time looking after his elderly mother. His resignation was finally approved and he left Chiaotung University. The Ministry of Transportation then named Ling as the acting school president at just 27 years of age. This was the first time that Ling headed Chiaotung University.

In 1921, the Peiyang Government merged the Beijing College of Posts and Telegraphs, the Railway Management School, the Tangshan Industrial Vocational College and the Shanghai Nanyang College to establish Chiao Tung University. The Board of Directors nominated Yeh Kung-cho as University President, with Chang Chu taking over the Shanghai campus. Ling completed the handover and returned to working for the Ministry of Transportation.

In 1923, Ling returned to Chiaotung University as a teacher. At this point in time, the school name had been changed to Nan Yang College and was a part of the Ministry of Transportation. When Nan Yang College President Chen Tu-heng resigned in 1924, Ling became his successor, and at the age of 31, was the youngest university president in China's new university system.

In April 1927, the Political Committee appointed Li Fan-I as the president. In 1931, the Ministry of Transportation established the Tongguan-Hsi-an Engineering Bureau of

the Longhai Railway. Ling was appointed the Director-General and Chief Engineer of the new bureau. He later served as the Standing Deputy Minister of Transportation, Professor of Civil Engineering at the National Taiwan University and Chairman of the China Petroleum Company. In 1971, his retirement was finally approved at the age of 78.

In October 1957, the Executive Yuan gave approval to Chiao Tung University to establish the Institute of Electronics. Ling was retained by the Ministry of Education as the Director of the Preparatory Office. The re-establishment of Chiao Tung University in Taiwan was due completely to the support of Ling and university alumni. Ling was not only the pride of NCTU alumni, but will always be the university's spiritual leader as well.

(Source: "The Spiritual Leader of NCTU: Ling Hung-Hsun (1864 ~ 1981)" by Lin Chia-Hua, Class of '98, Applied Mathematics)

