

Honorary Doctor of Science

Prof ZHOU Guangzhao

Chairman:

Our first guest is a renowned physicist and a former President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Born in Changsha, Hunan Province, Prof Zhou Guangzhao read physics at Tsinghua University in Beijing, and then went on to Peking University for his graduate studies. Having taught at Peking University as a lecturer in physics for three years, he went to Moscow as a researcher at Dubna Joint Nuclear Research Institute in the former Soviet Union in 1957. During his stay in the Soviet Union, he began to publish articles in professional journals that won him international recognition. Upon his return to China in 1961, he was in charge of the Theoretical Department of the Nuclear Weapon Research Institute under the Ministry of Nuclear Industry. His research on the application of nuclear energy produced many significant results that contributed to the design and theoretical study of nuclear weapons and laid the ground work for the successful production of China's first atomic and hydrogen bombs. In 1964, he was appointed Director of Nuclear Weapon Research Institute and then the Chief Engineer of the Ninth Bureau of China's Ministry of Nuclear Industry. In 1982, Prof Zhou received the highest National Award for Natural Sciences in recognition of his pioneer work and important contributions in developing China's nuclear weapons.

In 1979, Prof Zhou became a fellow of the Institute of Theoretical Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He was invited to visit the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in the United States in 1980 and the Centre for Nuclear Research in Europe in 1981. In 1982, he became Director of the Institute of Theoretical Physics, and five years later he was appointed President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In his career as a theoretical physicist, Prof Zhou has published more than 80 articles in scientific research. He is a pioneer in putting forward the theory of spiral amplitude of particles and establishing relevant mathematical methods for research in this field. He is also known for his research in detonation physics, radiation hydrodynamics and computing methods in mechanics. Prof Zhou headed the Chinese Academy of Sciences for a decade from 1987 to 1997, a crucial period for China's reform and continued opening up to

world affairs. He provided leadership for scientific research and the development of science and technology in China, and led Chinese scientists to face the challenges of a new century, the preparation of a knowledge-based economy, and the task of strengthening China through science and education.

Prof Zhou has served in many important positions and has won many honours and awards in China and internationally. He is now Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. He is also President of the China Association for Science and Technology and an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Since 1992, he has been a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. He has served as President of the Pacific Science Association and Chairman of its Council Board, President of the Chen Jiageng (Tan Kah-kee) Foundation, as well as an Adviser for UNESCO. In 1993, he was honoured with an Italian order; in 1994 the Qiu Shi Science and Technology Foundation in Hong Kong conferred on him the Outstanding Chinese Scientist Award; and in 1996, the International Asteroids Naming Committee approved the proposal to name asteroid No. 3462 as Zhou Guangzhao Star. He is a foreign member of eleven national or regional Academies of Sciences, including those of the United States and Russia. He has received honorary degrees from the City University of New York, McGill University in Canada, Hong Kong Baptist University, and the University of Hong Kong. It is a great pleasure to have Prof Zhou with us here today and to honour him in acknowledgement of his leadership and extraordinary contributions both to China's science and technology and to the nation's modernization process.

Mr Chairman, now I present to you Zhou Guangzhao for the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.