

CITATION
Award of Doctor of Veterinary Science *honoris causa*
Lee Boon Yang

Chancellor,

Lee Boon Yang is an alumnus of The University of Queensland who has dedicated a distinguished career of public service to the people of Singapore.

Boon Yang was a Colombo Plan scholar. He graduated from The University of Queensland, School of Veterinary Science in 1971 with a Bachelor in Veterinary Science. Upon his return to Singapore, he joined the Primary Production Department as a Veterinary Officer serving pig and poultry farmers before a stint in research and development. In 1981 he joined the Regional Office of the US Feed Grains Council as Assistant Regional Director and the following year was appointed Senior Manager of the Singapore agri-business group, Primary Industries Enterprise Pte Ltd.

In 1984 Boon Yang was persuaded to enter politics. He stood in the December 1984 General Elections in the Parliamentary Constituency of Jalan Besar and won his first term in Parliament. He went on to hold the Jalan Besar parliamentary seat for six consecutive terms. During his 26-year parliamentary career, he served in numerous ministerial positions.

In 1985, Boon Yang was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Communications and Information. Subsequently, he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Home Affairs.

In 1986, he was appointed Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Home Affairs. A year later he became Minister of State for National Development and in 1988 Senior Minister of State for National Development and Home Affairs.

In November 1990, he was appointed Senior Minister of State for Defence and in 1991 Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. In January 1992, he took on the appointments of Minister for Labour and Second Minister for Defence and in 1994 he was appointed Minister for Defence and Minister for Labour (later known as Ministry of Manpower). As Minister for Defence, among other contributions, he played a key role in forging closer defence relations between Australia and Singapore.

His final ministerial position was as Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts from 2003 to 2009 when he retired from the government. As Minister responsible for the arts, he presided over a number of significant developments including the School of the Arts and the National Art Gallery which is set to become a major art institution in Singapore. In the communications area, he was instrumental in developing the Next Generation National Broadband Network project which was a major investment with far reaching impact on the economy and society.

Boon Yang is currently Chairman of Keppel Corporation Limited, a diverse corporation with a global footprint in more than 30 countries, and Chairman of Singapore Press Holdings, Singapore's leading media organisation.

In 2003, Boon Yang was named UQ's International Alumnus of the Year.

Chancellor, in recognition of his distinguished career, his service to the people of Singapore, and his contribution to The University of Queensland, I present to you Lee Boon Yang, Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours Class Two A) from The University of Queensland, for the award of Doctor of Veterinary Science *honoris causa*.