NUS confers Honorary Doctor of Laws on CJ Chan Sek Keong

SINGAPORE — To recognise his leadership of the country’s judiciary and his contributions to Singapore’s criminal justice system, the National University of Singapore has conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws on Chief Justice Chan Sek Keong (picture).

CJ Chan, who graduated from what was then known as the University of Malaya in 1961, was the Attorney-General for 14 years before being appointed to head the Bench in 2006.

Yesterday, at the graduation ceremony for students from various undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, he laced his speech with humour: “I recall being the second person in my class to be called to receive my degree. Today, I’m the first person to do so, which is a slight improvement after nearly half a century of continuous study of the law.”

In his speech, NUS president Professor Tan Chorh Chuan encouraged the graduates to stay curious, pursue their passion and value their community, citing Chief Justice Chan as an example of someone who does.

He said: “Chief Justice Chan firmly believes that a good judge must understand the culture and contexts of the communities that make up our multi-racial society. As he has shown through his work, it is by valuing our society that we can really serve it well.”

The university also saw its first batch of students from 13 new programmes graduate. It marks the start of a series of graduation ceremonies until July 13.