05 September 2011

NUS Announces First Chair of the Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law

Professor Kevin John Gray, Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge, named as first Chair of the Professorship

The National University of Singapore (NUS) today announced that Professor Kevin John Gray, Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed as the first Chair of the Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law.

The Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law was one of the four initiatives announced by NUS in July as a tribute to the late Madam Kwa Geok Choo, wife of former Prime Minister and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew and an alumna of the University.

Professor Gray, who is also a Professor of Law at the University of Cambridge, will be holding the professorship for a term of three years, commencing in August 2011. Said Professor Tan Cheng Han, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Law, “Professor Kevin Gray is a scholar of undoubted academic excellence and is acknowledged within the common law world as a leading scholar of land law. As the first holder of the Chair, he will set the standard for future holders of this Chair, named in honour of a distinguished lawyer. He will bring to the law school a wealth of experience that will benefit both his peers and, more importantly, the student community. His appointment will contribute to the research and teaching of Property Law in Singapore.”

Said Professor Gray, “I am honoured to be appointed as the inaugural holder of this Professorship. I believe that an education in land law and its future development represents a vital interest of any nation, and particularly for a land-scarce city like Singapore. As the first appointee to this Professorship, I am devoted to making meaningful contributions to NUS and the entire legal community.”

Please refer to the Annex for a profile of Professor Gray.

The Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law

On 5 July 2011, NUS announced that it will pay tribute to the late Madam Kwa Geok Choo through initiatives that will significantly benefit the legal fraternity and less privileged Singaporeans.

The Kwa Geok Choo Professorship in Property Law was established as Madam Kwa was a leading property lawyer. She was a pioneer who started a law firm with Mr Lee Kuan Yew and his younger brother, and then went on to excel as a conveyancing lawyer, mentoring many others in the process.

The NUS Faculty of Law will also establish the Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished
Visitors Programme, where leading law academics will be invited to Singapore each year to teach a course at NUS and/or give public lectures on highly topical legal issues. In addition, Kwa Geok Choo Bursaries and Kwa Geok Choo Graduate Scholarships have been established to assist financially disadvantaged law students at NUS.