

International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement

GEORGE T.J. CHEN, M.S. '71, PH.D. '74



One of the most esteemed scientists in the earth-science research community in Taiwan, George T.J. Chen also is the academic vice president of National Taiwan University (NTU), arguably the most prestigious university in Taiwan. It is this blending of administrative excellence and scientific achievement that makes him such a powerful force in Taiwan and across the globe.

Chen, who earned a master's degree and a doctorate in atmospheric science from the University at Albany, joined the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at National Taiwan University, now the leading department of meteorology in Taiwan. He is a world-renowned scientist whose research includes various aspects of synoptic and mesoscale meteorology.

"Professors Chen's contribution is fundamental to the birth and growth of modern meteorology in Taiwan," said Ching-Hua Lo, dean of the College of Science at National Taiwan University. "His research, which includes ... monsoons, Mei-Yu fronts and mesoscale climatology, has exerted great influences on practitioners in these fields. He also has successfully initiated many international collaboration projects working on the climate/weather studies in East Asia. The projects have greatly improved the weather forecast capability, and therefore have made great contributions to the economic and social developments in this region."

In addition to research and teaching, Chen has been a leader in educational reform in Taiwan. Chen introduced the re-assessment and the distinguished/chair professor systems to ensure high quality of teaching and research performance at University faculties, a move which has been adopted by

many other universities in Taiwan. While serving as chairman of the course-reform committee of high-school Earth Science Education, Chen reformed high-school education so that the concepts of global change, sustainability and environmental protection were adopted.

Chen's supporters span the globe. "What impresses me the most ... is that George has been able to maintain a very active research profile ... while maintaining a heavy administrative burden that would 'kill' most people," said Lance Bosart, University at Albany Distinguished Professor and Chen's former academic and thesis advisor. "That George has been the president of the Meteorological Society of the Republic of China, the president of the Chinese Geophysical Union, the dean and then vice president of Academic Affairs at National Taiwan University (NTU), a distinguished professor at NTU and now a NTU chair professor speaks volumes about his national and international standing."

Chun-Chieh Wu, professor and chairman of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at National Taiwan University, noted that Chen has received some of the most prestigious scientific and scholar awards in Taiwan. "Over the last 33 years, he has been serving as a leading scientist and a prominent scholar in Taiwan. He has made significant contributions to Taiwan, not only in the research community, but also in the entire educational community. Dr. Chen is not just the pride of NTU, and of Taiwan, but also of the University at Albany."