国大表示，杨烈国在新加坡经济发展的杰出贡献，特别是在推广和发展我国资讯科技、半导体、化学和生物科学领域，受到广泛的认可。

新加坡国立大学昨天颁发荣誉文学博士学位给国大校友、标新局主席杨烈国，肯定他对新加坡、社会和国大所作出的贡献。

国大昨天举行今年首场毕业典礼，杨烈国从国大荣誉校长、纳丹总统手中接过荣誉文学博士学位。

协助新加坡转变成第一世界国家

国大表示，杨烈国在新加坡经济发展的杰出贡献，特别是在推广和发展我国资讯科技、半导体、化学和生物科学领域，受到广泛的认可。国大感谢杨烈国在本地设立生物学研究，还有他通过各种奖学金计划培养人才，国大教员和学生都从中受益。

杨烈国是协助新加坡从一个第三世界国家转变成第一世界国家的主要公务员之一。

杨烈国在24岁时加入国防部，后来担任国防部第二常任秘书，随后新加坡武装部队的配备、武器等，随后，他创办国家安全局、担任经济局局长、新加坡科技研究局主席等，都是标新局主席。

杨烈国在受勋时指出，当年他获得加拿大政府哥伦比亚奖学金到多伦多大学求学后回国，被派上了当时新加坡最大雇主英国远东军队开始组织新加坡，失业率居高不下，毕业生只求获得任何工作，不像今年毕业的学生，有很多工作选择。

他鼓励毕业生选择他们感兴趣的工作，像他一样，因为对工程感兴趣，担任国防部常任秘书、创办国家网络安全局、设立新加坡科技集团、建立了胜科企业和嘉德置地。

国大从昨天至接下来的几天举行毕业典礼，今年有9772名毕业生，是国大过去五年来最多的。首次参加毕业典礼的有来自13个国家的首批毕业生，包括美国、澳大利亚、英国和新加坡等。

昨天出席第一场毕业典礼的还有教育部长王瑞杰、国大校长陈显财教授。美国杜克大学校长波旁德教授等，在观众席的则有前文部部长杨荣文夫妇、淡马锡控股执行董事长兼首席执行官何枝、财政部兼交通部政务部长杨莉明等人。

国大名誉校长纳丹总统颁发荣誉文学博士学位给标新局主席杨烈国（左），表扬他对新加坡所作出的重大贡献。[陈勋哲摄]
PHILIP YEO CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS DEGREE BY NUS

Ong Jueqi
Choy Xinying

NUS Commencement Ceremony

NUS said that Philip Yeo's outstanding contributions to Singapore's economic development, especially in the promotion and development of Singapore's information technology, semiconductor, chemical and biomedical sciences industries, is widely admired and recognised.

The National University of Singapore yesterday conferred an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree on its alumni, SPRING Singapore chairman Philip Yeo, in recognition of his contributions to Singapore, society and the University.

Yesteday NUS held its first graduation ceremony this year. Mr Yeo received the honorary degree from NUS Chancellor, President S.R. Nathan.

Helped Singapore transform into a First World country

NUS said that Philip Yeo's outstanding contributions to Singapore's economic development, especially in the promotion and development of Singapore's information technology, semiconductor, chemical and biomedical sciences industries, is widely admired and recognised. NUS is appreciative of Mr Yeo's efforts in establishing biomedical research in Singapore and developing of talents through the setting up of various scholarship programmes, which have benefitted its faculty and students.

Mr Yeo is one of the key civil servants who helped transform Singapore from a Third World country into a First World nation.

He joined the Ministry of Defence when he was 24 and subsequently became Second Permanent Secretary in the same ministry, where he upgraded the equipment and weapons of the Singapore Armed Forces. Following this, he set up the National Computer Board and later became Head of the Economic Development Board, Chairman of A*STAR among other appointments. He is currently Chairman of SPRING Singapore.

In his thank-you speech, Mr Yeo pointed out that he received a Colombo Plan scholarship from the Canadian government to study at the University of Toronto. He returned just as Singapore's largest employer, the British forces in the Far East, began its withdrawl. This
caused high unemployment and graduates took any job they could find. This is quite unlike the current day, when graduates are faced with a myriad of job options.

In his speech, he encouraged graduates to choose work that they enjoy, like what he did. He had been interested in engineering and he later became Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, founded the National Computer Board, set up Singapore Technologies and established Sembcorp and Capitaland.

In addition, he pointed out that it brings greater satisfaction to create opportunities for others than to grasp opportunities for oneself. He said that he begun seeing it as his responsibility at a young age to set up new industries and provide jobs for Singaporeans. Other than creating jobs at the Economic Development Board, A*Star and SPRING Singapore, he also believes in investing in individuals and has thus set up bursary schemes in his agencies.

He also encouraged students to be bold in making new friends. He had been active in seeking out foreign academics, some of whom were later invited to set up research institutes in Singapore.

9,772 graduands, the highest number ever

Starting from yesterday, NUS will be holding commencement ceremonies over the next few days. A total of 9,772 students will graduate this year, the highest number in five years. Among them, the first batch of students from 13 programmes will be receiving their degrees, including PhD in Medicine degrees from the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School and PhD in Pharmacy degrees from NUS.

Those present at the first graduation ceremony yesterday included Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan and Duke University President Professor Richard H. Brodhead. Guests included former Foreign Minister George Yeo and his wife, Temasek Holdings Executive Director and CEO Ho Ching, Minister of State for Finance and Transport Josephine Teo, and others.

"It brings greater satisfaction to create opportunities for others than to grasp opportunities for oneself."
- SPRING Singapore chairman Philip Yeo