

## Kirby Chaur-Shin Yung '78

Dr. Chaur-Shin Yung of Taipei, Taiwan, has dedicated his life to improving the educational system of his country. A 1978 Penn State graduate with a Ph.D. in industrial and vocational education, he has pioneered a better environment for vocational education in Taiwan through his fifteen-year service with the Ministry of Education.

A former Minister of Education for Taiwan, Yung is currently convener of the Education and Culture Division of the National Policies Foundation and chair professor of Chung Yuan Christian University, as well as professor of National Normal University. He has said, "I believe an educational system should nurture the dreams of every individual, and it is my dream that the young generation develop their potential in every way possible."



Yung, holder of a B.A. from National Taiwan Normal University (1971) and an M.A. from the University of Minnesota (1974), taught at the University of Arkansas before becoming an associate professor of vocational industrial education at the National Taiwan Normal University, where he became the first head of the Industrial Arts Education Department.

In 1986, he became Director General of Technological and Vocational Education in the Ministry of Education, overseeing vocational and industrial education programs in Taiwan. While serving successively as Director General of the Department of Technological and Vocational Education (1986–1989), Vice Minister (1989–1997), and Minister of Education (1999–2000), Yung made his mark with innovative and strategically formulated educational policies: He helped lift limitations on establishing new universities and technological institutes, and he promoted the qualities of Taiwan's educational systems and human resources.

As Minister of Education, he significantly contributed to the innovation of teaching methodology at various levels of education, advocating lifelong learning, education for career people, extension education, and continuing education programs. Thus, he created multiple channels and opportunities for lifelong learning, which greatly enhance the quality of Taiwan's human resources.

During his service as chairman of the Research, Development, and Evaluation Commission of the Executive Yuan (1997–1999), Yung thoroughly evaluated the overall performance and the working efficiency of all government agencies, greatly helping to boost the economy of Taiwan and also maintaining both stability and a high level of economic growth.

A key example of Yung's transformational abilities is his handling of the 1999 earthquake that overnight destroyed more than a thousand schools in Taiwan: The first minister to go deep into the disaster area, Yung took steps to rebuild all the schools through students' trauma healing, school reallocation, and temporary classroom buildings. He also took the unprecedented step of inviting the private sector to adopt 134 schools and to build 260 schools, in the process raising NT \$10.8 billion.

A widely published author, Yung wrote the first textbook focused on career guidance published in Taiwan, and he has received the country's first Outstanding Research Award. In addition, Yung serves on many national committees, including the Scouts of China and the Chinese Youth Corps.

He has been instrumental in both increasing the enrollment of Taiwanese students at Penn State and forging a long-lasting educational partnership between Penn State and Taiwanese universities. Through his support, extensive connections have been made between the College of Education and Taiwan, including exchange programs and collaborations in several different departments of the college.

At Penn State, he was president of the Chinese Student Association, and he is current president of Taiwan's Penn State Chapter. He was selected as a 1991 Alumni Fellow for the College of Education.

\*This career summary is excerpted from the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony booklet (May 30, 2003, The Pennsylvania State University).