



APRU World Institute Workshop

“Strengthening Public Health Systems in the Pacific Rim: The Role of Research Universities in Responding to Ageing & Chronic Disease, Infectious Disease and Health Security Issues”

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PROFILE



SHIH Choon Fong
President, National University of Singapore
Chair, APRU World Institute Governing Board

Prof Shih Choon Fong became President of [National University of Singapore \(NUS\)](#) in 2000.

Prof Shih received his PhD from Harvard University. Thereafter, he led the Fracture Research Group at the Corporate Research Lab at General Electric in the U.S. He later joined Brown University as a professor. Prof Shih is a Foreign Associate of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering and a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been awarded the French decoration "Chevalier" in the Order of the "Legion d'Honneur".

Prof Shih has made contributions in nonlinear fracture mechanics and computational methods for fracture analyses. He has about 150 publications in leading academic journals to his credit. He is among the highly cited researchers in the world for the category of engineering compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).

Prof Shih has been a consultant to National Aeronautics Space Administration, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, among others. He was awarded the Swedlow Award and the George Rankin Irwin Medal by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Prof Shih is a member of the MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

In 1996, Prof Shih returned to Singapore as the founding Director of the [Institute of Materials Research and Engineering](#). He is the founding President of the Materials

Research Society of Singapore, which is affiliated to the International Union of Materials Research Societies.

Prof Shih has been actively promoting NUS' global profile. He serves on the Executive Committees of several university consortiums, including [Universitas 21](#). He is the Chairman Emeritus of the [Association of Pacific Rim Universities \(APRU\)](#), a consortium of 36 leading research universities along the Pacific Rim. APRU is modelled after the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). Prof Shih chairs the Pro-tem Governing Board of the APRU World Institute, an institute of advanced studies to address scientific, social, and economic issues of global importance.

In Singapore, Prof Shih has served on national committees. He chaired the Committee on University Admission System which recommended significant changes in the admissions criteria accepted by Government in 1999. Prof Shih also served on the Economic Review Committee that crafted wide-ranging strategies for re-making Singapore.

Prof Shih is the Chairman of the [Singapore-MIT Alliance](#) Governing Board as well as an Executive Committee member of the Economic Development Board. Prof Shih is also a board member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), the Biomedical Research Council, the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Institute of Policy Studies and a founding member of the Singapore International Foundation. He is also a Board member of the National Research Foundation chaired by the former Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Tony Tan.