

## **OBITUARY**

Staff of the ECE Dept, NUS are saddened by the passing of our colleague Professor Jacob Phang on Saturday 5 January 2013.

### **Professor Jacob Phang**



Professor Jacob Phang's research area was in integrated circuit failure analysis. He was the first Director of the Faculty-level Centre for Integrated Circuit Failure Analysis & Reliability (CICFAR). Among his early achievements, he developed with his colleagues the SEMICAPS system which was among the first systems to digitally control the operation and image processing of SEM images. This technology was applicable to many problems in the semiconductor manufacturing industry. The technology was commercialized by Image Transforms Pte. Ltd., a start-up company founded by Professor Phang and 3 colleagues in ECE. Image Transforms was among the first technology companies to be 'spun-off' by NUS academics. Later known as SEMICAPS Corporation, the company subsequently commercialized several other instrumentation technologies developed by the research team at CICFAR.

Professor Phang was also among the early pioneers in developing the activities of IEEE Singapore and served as its Chairman during a period of rapid growth in its technical activities. He also played a major role in the founding of the Singapore Chapters of the IEEE Reliability & Electron Devices Societies.

Professor Phang also served as the CEO of NUS Enterprise. He was a keen advocate of technology entrepreneurship and in providing students with an exposure to the world of high tech start-up companies. This advocacy led to the setting up of the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) which now operates in Silicon Valley, Bio Valley (Philadelphia), Shanghai, Beijing, Israel, Stockholm and Bangalore.

Professor Phang received the National Young Scientist and Engineer Award (1988) and President's Technology Award, Republic of Singapore (2009).