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Ping Cheng Receives Prestigious International Award in Thermophysics

Prof Ping Cheng of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) will be the recipient of the 2003 AIAA Thermophysics Award given by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) in recognition of his seminal work in thermophysics.

This is the second international award that Prof Cheng has received since joining HKUST. He will be presented this prestigious award during the 36th AIAA Thermophysics Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, from June 23-26, 2003, at which he will also deliver a plenary lecture on "Transport Phenomena in Microsystems".



Prof Cheng's groundbreaking work on radiative gasdynamics, porous media heat transfer, heat transfer in compressible flow, and microscale heat transfer has led to applications to such areas as re-entry of space vehicles, geothermal energy conversion, the thermal management of spacecraft, electronic cooling, and microsystems. He has more than 180 publications on these subjects.

In his distinguished career, Prof Cheng has received many honors and awards. He has been a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) since 1986, and was the recipient of the Society's 1996 ASME Heat Transfer Memorial Award for his pioneering work in heat transfer. Apart from the late Prof Chang-Lin Tien, Prof Cheng is the only Chinese academic who is conferred the ASME Heat Transfer Memorial Award and the AIAA Thermophysics Award.

As a faculty member at the University of Hawaii, he was bestowed the 1987 Matsuda Fellow Award for his outstanding research achievements. In 1983, he was selected by the National Science Foundation to be a member of the US delegation to attend the first US-China bi-national heat transfer workshop in Beijing.

Prof Cheng is on the editorial boards of 10 international heat transfer and energy journals, as well as an honorary and consultant professor at nine major universities in China.

In 1995, after a worldwide search, Prof Cheng was appointed Head of HKUST's Mechanical Engineering Department, a position he held until 2001. Prior to joining HKUST, he was Chairman (1989-1994) and Professor (1974-1994) of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Hawaii. His other academic experience includes appointments as a Visiting Professor at Stanford University, Guest Professor at the Technical University of Munich, Visiting Professor at the University of Paris 6 and the Nanyang Technological University.

Prof Cheng obtained his BSc from the Oklahoma State University and his MSc from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in mechanical engineering. He received his PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University.

