
PROFILE

Born in Surabaya, Indonesia, Professor Wang Gungwu studied at a high school in Ipoh, Malaysia. He went up to the National Central University of Nanjing, China and then to the University of Malaya. After graduating from the University of Malaya, he received a Doctorate (Ph.D.) from the University of London. While he served as Lecturer and Professor of History, and then Dean of Arts at his alma mater, the University of Malaya, Professor Wang contributed to the establishment of the foundation of historical studies in Malaysia, and edited academic journals of the Nanyang Hsueh-hui and the Malayan Branch Royal Asiatic Society. In 1968 he became Professor of Far Eastern History and was assigned to Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies at Australian National University. He was also appointed President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and greatly contributed to understanding of Asia in Australia. Since 1986, Professor Wang has continued to be internationally active as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Wang is well known for his remarkable originality and analysis in his research on the history of China and the Chinese in Southeast Asia. In recent years, he has been highly esteemed for his theory on pluralistic identities of the Chinese overseas. He is often invited by overseas academic organizations as a visiting professor or research fellow. He has moved the basis for his activities several times between Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong, and exhibited his eminent leadership at every assignment. In Kuala Lumpur, he was elected President of the International Association of Historians of Asia at the young age of thirty and later resumed the presidency at the same association in Hong Kong. Throughout his career, Professor Wang has significantly contributed to international academic exchanges in Asian studies and played the pivotal role in organizing various international conferences, linking the East and the West, China and the world, the Chinese in Southeast Asia and other Southeast Asians. His comments are listened to with great interest by scholars of Asian studies and learned people from all over the world and that fact makes him an outstanding spokesperson and intellectual leader of Asia. Professor Wang Gungwu's international achievements of such a high caliber are the exemplar for Asia's intelligentsia.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

- 1930 Born in Surabaya, Indonesia
1954 Graduated from the University of Malaya
1957 Received a Doctorate (Ph.D.) from the University of London
1957-61 Assistant Lecturer and Lecturer at the University of Malaya
1962-63 Dean of Arts at the University of Malaya
1962-68 Vice President of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malayan Branch
1963-68 Professor of History at the University of Malaya
1964-68 President of the International Association of Historians of Asia
1968-86 Professor of Far Eastern History of Australian National University
1975-80 Director of the Research School of Pacific Studies at Australian National University
1978-80 President of the Asian Studies Association of Australia
1980-83 President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities
1986- Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong
1988 Emeritus Professor of Australian National University
1988-91 President of the International Association of Historians of Asia
1991 Conferred the Commander of British Empire
1993 Honorary President of the International Congress of Asian and North African Studies

MAJOR WORKS

- The Nanhai Trade*, Singapore, 1958
A Short History of the Nanyang Chinese, Singapore, 1959
The Structure of Power in North China during the Five Dynasties, Kuala Lumpur, 1963
China and the World since 1949, London, 1977
Community and Nation, Singapore, Sydney, 1981 (second ed. 1992)
Dongnanya yu Huaren (Southeast Asia and the Chinese), Beijing, 1987
(written in Chinese)
Changing Identities of Southeast Asian Chinese since World War II, (co-ed.), Hong Kong, 1988
The Chineseness of China, Hong Kong, 1991
China and the Chinese Overseas, Singapore, 1991