

Tributes to Academician Dr. Chia Swee Ping from all over the world & Malaysia

## The departure of my friend Chia Swee Ping of the University of Malaya



My friend Chia Swee Ping, a physics professor from the University of Malaya, left us on March 8, 2018.

I first met Swee Ping (Chia was his family name, and in Asia, “last” name goes “first”) at the home of my good friend Tan Hing Tat in Kuala Lumpur in 1979. It was a side trip when I attended a physics conference organized by another good friend K. K. Phua in Singapore. As I recall, Swee Ping returned to the University of Malaysia after receiving his doctorate in particle physics from the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana. Hing Tat was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota when I was a graduate student and became a faculty member of the University of Malaya, where Swee Ping was.

Since that time, Swee Ping and I remained in the next several decades in contact, although rather infrequently. The reason was that I seldom visit Malaysia since the areas of physics I was interested in was not prevalent in the country. But I kept an eye on Swee Ping because despite the fact that fundamental physics, and for sure particle physics, was not a major intellectual interest in Malaysia, he kept the field on a high profile in the country and the region. He worked closely with K. K. Phua in Singapore, and actively participated in organizing various physics conferences either in Singapore or Kuala Lumpur.

There is no question that in the past four decades, Swee Ping was one of the most visible physicists in Malaysia. While he was far from the center of particle physics, he actively participated with his fellow particle physicists in Taiwan, China and Korea. Indeed, in 1995, in the Malaysia Journal of Science, Swee Ping presented an account of the hot subject on CP-violation.

After I became the Senior Vice President of Taiwan’s National Cheng-Kung University (NCKU), I was told that there was a physicist in Malaysia who worked pro bono for the

Malaysia's Independent Schools in setting up physics examination for students to qualify for universities in Taiwan. I was not surprised when I found out that the person was Swee Ping. As an outstanding physicist, with excellent core knowledge and great enthusiasm for helping the next generations, Swee Ping was certainly the best person for that job. Apparently, it wasn't just a one-year deal. It went on for more than several decades. Swee Ping was a kind and gentle soul. Even his demeanor showed that palpably. I shall miss my friend Swee Ping.

Da Hsuan Feng

Dear Ming Chow and Guru

What a loss to Asia-Pacific Physics Society!  
I was expecting to seeing him today in Pohang.

We will remember him for a long time for his dignity and contribution to the A-P Community.

Sincere our condolences to his family members, especially to Mingchou.

Sincerely yours,

Cookie and Won Namkung

Dear Kuru,

I am sorry to hear the sad news. Please send my personal and AAPPS's deepest condolences to his family and the Malaysian physics community. He has contributed greatly AAPPS. Rest in Peace.

Sincerely

Gui-Lu

Dear Kuru and all,

I feel very sad to hear this heart-breaking news on my dear friend SP. My deepest condolences to his family and the Malaysian physics community. He has contributed greatly to the founding and development of the AAPPS and we need to set up a memorial session for him on the next APPC. Rest in Peace.

Sincerely,

Swan

Seunghwan (Swan) Kim

Professor of Physics/Dean of the Graduate School, POSTECH, Pohang, Korea

Dear Kuru,

What an unexpected sad news of passing away of Prof. S. P. Chia, our friend and advisor, today! My sincere condolence to Prof. Chia' family. We will remember his special contribution and wisdom to AAPPS.

Best wishes,  
Sang Pyo

Dear Gui Lu and all,

I am on a train from Pohang to Chengnu. May I suggest a special session of AAPPS Bulletin on Swee-Ping?

Best wishes,  
Sang Pyo



Dear Friends:

It was a very sad news came to me this evening that Prof. Chia Swee Ping passed away. I came to know Prof Chia four years ago in Japan in the AAPPS meeting, and we met now-and-then in the AAPPS meetings. December last year, though Prof. Chia was not attending the council meeting, but he joint us in the group photo session and the banquet organized by Prof Kuru.

During the banquet, I asked Swee Ping if I can have a photo taken with him, he was very happy to ask his daughter to take this photo for me. It was hard to believe that it was the first and last photo for me with Swee Ping!

As Prof. Da Hsuan Fung indicated, Prof. Chia was a well-known physicist in Asia-Pacific region, as well as in the global level.

I shall miss my friend Prof. Chia Swee Ping.

Xing ZHU, Prof of Physics, Peking University

Dear Kuru:

I have just returned from Singapore where I heard this sad news from Kwek. Please convey my condolences to his family. I hope AAPPS Bulletin will publish a memorial statement for him. May his soul rest in peace.

Best wishes,

Jun'ichi

Dear Kuru,

My most sincere condolences for those close to Swee Ping.

We will certainly remember him for his contribution and generosity.

Fu-Jen

Dear Kuru,

Really sad to know that. I also support that AAPPS Bulletin will have a memorial statement for him.

MInn-Tsong

## Malaysia



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With much sadness I share the news of the passing of a former colleague and friend, Academician Dr. Chia Swee Ping.

He retired in late 1990s from the Department of Physics. He was a theoretical physicist and worked on supersymmetric extension of the Standard Model.

He was also an alumni of the Faculty of Science, UM graduating with honors in 1967. Subsequently he pursued his MSc at University of Illinois under the Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship and furthered his PhD at Illinois on a Illinois Fellowship.

He returned to UM to serve in the Dept of Physics from 1972 till 1999 and went on as Vice-President/Senior Vice-President at Inti International. He returned to UM in 2008-2012.

His sterling service to Institut Fizik Malaysia will be greatly missed by many of us at the Institute(President 1991-2011).

He served internationally in the Council of the Association of Asia-Pacific Societies and was a member of the International Planning Committee of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Theoretical Physics, Korea. He was a senior associate of ICTP. He was elevated as an Academician of ASM in 2013.

Those who know him well, please see details of his wake service below.

Kuru

Dear All,

My deepest condolences to Academician Professor Dr.Chia Swee Pings Family on the passing away of Dr.Chia yesterday. He was Good man and a great Scientist.The Academy and all his friends and colleagues will miss him a lot.

May his good Soul rest in peace.

With fond memories,

Professor Dato Dr.C.P.Ramachandran.

Deepest condolences to the family of Dr Chia Swee Ping from the Board of Directors of K.I.S.M. Sdn Bhd. He has been a Director of K.I.S.M. Sdn Bhd for the past 21 years. We will certainly miss him.

Datuk Dr Mohinder Singh  
Chairman, KISM Sdn Bhd

Jabatan Fizik UOM mengucapkan takziah kepada keluarga mendiang. Beliau amat berjasa kepada kemajuan Fizik di tanahair.

Head of Physics Department, Universiti Putra Malaysia