

Zude Zhou

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Graduates and Graduands, families, friends and colleagues, today the University will award an honorary degree to Prof Zude Zhou, who is Chair Professor of the School of Mechanical and Electronic Engineering at Wuhan University of Technology in China and Director of the Hubei Digital Manufacturing Key Laboratory.

Wuhan lies on the Yangtze River and is a major transportation and industrial hub in Central China. It is also a major centre for research and education with a number of Research Institutes and Universities. It was from one of these, the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, that Prof Zhou graduated in 1970 from the Department of Electrical and Power Engineering, with a Bachelor of Engineering degree. He then spent the next 27 years of his career there as a lecturer, associate professor, professor, eventually becoming vice president of that institution from 1997 to 2000. During that period he spent some time at this University, from 1984 to 1986, as a Visiting Researcher in the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the supervision of Professor Tobias. His academic interests are primarily in the field of digital manufacturing, including advanced manufacturing technology, digital monitoring and fault diagnosis and numerical and networked control systems. In 2000 Prof Zhou moved across the city to become president of Wuhan University of Science and Technology, a post he held until 2010. During his career he has held numerous international visiting posts, including Visiting Chairs at the National University of Singapore, and Universities of Hong Kong, Auckland and Bolton in Lancashire. He is a Council Member of the Chinese Mechanical Engineering Society, and Vice President of Council and the Director of the Academic Committee of the Hubei Mechanical Engineering Society. He is the winner of numerous prizes for his research, including Science and Technology Progress and Invention awards of the Chinese Ministry of Education, and holds editorial positions on a range of Chinese and international journals. He is the author of around a dozen books and numerous journal articles on digital manufacturing. In 2014, his achievements in this field gave him the honor of being elected to the Society of Manufacturing Engineers College of Fellows. 2014 SME president, Michael F. Molnar said, "The 2014 Class of SME Fellows is a most impressive group of members who have made great strides in advancing manufacturing through their daily work and research and development activities, and each serves as an inspirational story by their significant technical contributions to the manufacturing profession, and resulting beneficial impact to society."

His association with this University has continued and in 2013 he became an Institute of Advanced Studies Distinguished Visiting Fellow bringing his Digital Manufacturing expertise to the Regeneration Economics theme of the Institute

Prof Zhou is an outstanding academic leader. During his presidency at Wuhan University of Technology the student population grew from 20,000 to 50,000. Staff numbers and quality also increased, and there are now over 5,500 faculty members including 675 Professors and 1300 Associate Professors. During Prof Zhou's presidency a new 300 acre campus was added to complement the existing three campuses. In large part due to his visionary leadership, Wuhan University

of Technology entered the Times Higher Education's list of the top four hundred universities in the world, in the 8th position of all Chinese Universities.

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, to honour his wide ranging academic achievements and to recognise his major contribution to the development of his University and to the academic life of his country, I present to you and the University, Prof Zude Zhou for the degree of Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*.