

Honorary Awards

Sabarathnam Prathapan

Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting to you Adjunct Assoc Prof Sabarathnam Prathapan, who council has determined should be awarded the honorary title of Doctor of Letters.

Professor Prathapan came to Darwin in 1978 to take up a position as Lecturer of Civil Engineering at Darwin Community College, as it was known then. He arrived in Darwin with a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) from Brighton University, England. He had previously lived in Singapore, where he began his teaching career.

He obtained a Bachelor of Business in accounting from Darwin Institute of Technology and a Diploma of Teaching from Adelaide College of Advanced Education. He also obtained a Master of Engineering from the University of Sydney.

Professor Prathapan held many managerial positions in CDU's predecessor institutions and was a member of many committees and the council. He was the first Deputy Vice-Chancellor (VET) appointed to Northern Territory University. He also held the position of CEO of the NT Government's Employment and Training Authority.

He taught continually at CDU and its predecessor institutions. He greatly enjoyed teaching and was held in high regard by his students. He also supervised many Master's students in their thesis and published papers. He retired recently as an Associate Professor at CDU.

At a recent birthday party, one of Professor Prathapan's former students said, "Some people say that experience is life's biggest teacher. I say that teachers like you give some of life's best experience." For Professor Prathapan, comments such as that are why he loves to teach.

Professor Prathapan is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and a Fellow of Certified Practising Accountants, where he has contributed as a member of several committees. He was the president of the Institution of Engineers NT for two years and in 1996 was awarded NT Professional Engineer of the Year.

He is also a tireless contributor to the community. He sourced funding and helped to build a Hindu temple and a community hall called Harmony Hall in Malak. For his contribution, he was awarded the prestigious Marthuri Award by the international organisation that promotes Tamil and Hindu culture.

Professor Prathapan has also been a member of the Rotary Club for thirty-five years, where he contributed to many community projects. He was honoured with Rotary's highest award, the Paul Harris Fellow. He was recently appointed District Governor of Rotary for Northern Australia and Timor Leste.

Chancellor

In recognition of Sabarathnam Prathapan's role as an educational leader in engineering and for his outstanding contribution over many years to the University, to its predecessor institutions, and to the discipline of engineering in the Northern Territory, Professor Prathapan is awarded the Honorary Doctor of Letters.