

# Chong Eu chosen for his vision and expertise

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WAWASAN Open University (WOU) has appointed former Penang chief minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu (*pia*) as its founding chancellor.

WOU council chairman Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik announced this at a press conference after chairing WOU's seventh council meeting over the weekend.

"We are delighted that Dr Lim, who was the key person driving Penang's development to its current economically healthy state, has consented to take on the role of WOU's first chancellor," he said.

Keng Yaik said Lim is a scholar and a person of eminence and intellect who has impeccable credentials.

"He has the kind of vision and expertise that WOU needs at this juncture of its development to provide it with sound leadership and advice," he said.

WOU's vice-chancellor and chief executive officer, Datuk Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan, said Lim is an outstanding role model to members of the university and has the public stature to

represent the university with the highest level of integrity and passion.

"Dr Lim's commitment to education and social change makes him an ideal choice for the role of chancellor and he has also gained immeasurable distinction as a statesman and business leader," Dhanarajan said.

The ceremony to install Lim as chancellor will take place next year upon the completion of the university's 12-storey campus building in front of The Homestead on Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah.

Lim, who was born in 1919 in Penang, studied at Penang Free School before proceeding to study medicine on a Queen's Scholarship in 1937 at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated with a degree in medicine and surgery in 1944.

He started pursuing a political career when he was appointed to the Penang Legislative Council in 1949 and continued to work up the political ranks to become president of two of the country's major political parties, MCA and Gerakan.

After leading Gerakan to victory in 1969, Lim became Penang's second chief minister.

During his 21-year tenure as Penang chief minister, he brought a new lease of life to the state by developing industrial parks and free trade zones and bringing in foreign investments.

His other landmark contributions to the state included the development of

Komtar and Penang Bridge.

Lim has since retired from active politics and concentrates on business, holding the post of chairman and adviser to several large corporations.

He also served as the pro-chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia between 1994 and 1999.