

國立新加坡大學 倪亦靖教授

一九六五年中五畢業生

簡介

倪亦靖教授，1963-65年就讀九龍工業學校，為本校第一批應考中學會考的學生。其兄姐為著名作家倪匡和亦舒，同屆畢業的同學有現任匯豐銀行亞太區主席鄭海泉和差餉物業估價署副署長老興忠。倪教授現居新加坡，為國立新加坡大學研究辦公室主任。

倪家故事

劉：倪教授，你的哥哥倪匡和姐姐亦舒是香港的知名作家，可否告訴我們你的家庭背景？你是否仍有和兄姐聯絡？

倪：我在國內出生，有一個大家庭。倪匡是四哥，亦舒是六姐，我排行第七，還有三個哥哥和一個姐姐。我們現在分隔五湖四海，倪匡居於美國，亦舒在加拿大生活，其他兄長和姐姐仍在大陸，我則在1974年起在新加坡定居。正所謂天涯咫尺，現在通訊設施發達，我們仍然保持緊密的聯繫。

快樂的孩子

劉：你在香港的成長是怎樣的？你是否有適應的困難？小學的生活又怎麼樣？

倪：我在1952年跟隨父親來到香港，當時只有四歲。我想不起那時是否有適應的困難，畢竟我還是一個孩子，適應能力應該較高吧！我很享受小學生活，日子過得十分愉快，因為沒有繁重的功課，每天也可以玩樂。孩子的想法就是這樣簡單的！



校友倪亦靖教授

實用中學的歲月（1961-63）

劉：你完成小學後升讀福華街實用中學，你在那裡的生活怎麼樣？實用中學是當時新的辦學形式，你認為這種形式有何特別？

倪：我在小學時只是遊戲人間，還未用心讀書，所以升中試的成績不大理想，原本要到一間私立中學讀書，後來獲教育司署通知，可以到一間新成立的實用中學升學，加上母親也不想我到學費昂貴的私校，所以我便入了福華街實用中學。當時我也不清楚實用中學是什麼類型的學校，只知道要上很多實用課，例如金工和木工。當我穿上海藍色的工衣（工場校服）在街上蹣跚，會引來途人奇異的目光，也許他們心裡奇怪：怎會有如此年青的學徒？

我來自九工（1963-65）

劉：你在九龍工業學校有哪些印象難忘的回憶？你與老師和同學的關係怎麼樣？

倪：在我印象中，九工是一所正規的學校。我和福華街實用中學的同學在知識基礎上較弱，不知是否這個故，我們並沒有化學科修讀。直到現在，我仍覺得這是一件憾事。我對劉國楨校長有很深刻的印象，他說話很有威嚴，有時令人透不過氣來。我記得他曾在台上唱「阿里山的姑娘」，歌聲蠻不錯。劉校長有時還打羽毛球，有運動家的風範。會考放榜後，由於九龍工業沒

有開預科班，劉校長給我寫信到維多利亞工業中學，推薦我升讀中六，我很感激他對我的關懷。我最喜愛的老師是朱益老師和楊炎老師，他們都是從福華街實用中學轉過來的。楊老師是一位很出色的數學老師，他完美的筆記和獨特的教學風格使我愛上了數學，他在中四便教線性規劃(linear programming)，在當時是很前衛的做法。朱老師任教我班中、英文科，我很驚嘆他能駕馭兩種語文。他最喜愛的小說是Kon-Tiki Expedition和朱自清的背影。我還記得馬韻芬老師和岑淑芬老師。馬老師是一位年青漂亮的淑女；岑老師教學一板一眼，絕無廢話，她們都是令我獲益良多的英文老師。潘家繼老師的秀麗書法令我們羨慕不已。教簿記的黃貴健老師對我們十分友善和真誠。教物理的楊淑文老師是從美國學成回港的，上課時總是軟語輕聲，但有一次例外。那一天我們要上早課，楊老師衝入課室，帶著嘶啞的聲線向我們說出一道令人震驚的消息：美國總統甘迺迪遇刺身亡。我們全班也沉默下來。我很喜歡上岑岡實老師的地理課。我很感謝他給我向皇仁書院寫了一封簡履，好讓我在皇仁升讀預科，可惜我修讀的課目與皇仁的課程並不配合，在皇仁升讀預科未能如願。我腦海裡還浮著很多友好同學的名字：我最要好的同學是鄰座的葉澤培、還有鄭海泉、老興忠、譚順泰、李沃章、劉璞琳、龔間義、李惠國、梁鴻均、袁竹賢、林卓庭。還有很多名字在我的記憶中慢慢隱去。

別矣，九工！

劉：你在中學畢業後，到了英國升學。為何你有這樣的決定？為什麼你會選讀機械工程？

倪：我在九龍工業學校畢業後並沒有立刻到英國進修。我入讀香港工業專科學院修讀機械工程，當時我的一位哥哥正在工專修讀電子工程，他建議我選修機械工程，因為這是常青的科目，現在我回想他的話真是至理名言。三年後(1968年)我在工專畢業



與劉偉華老師合照拷貝

，因為成績不俗，獲得工專和英國工業家的海外訓練安排，到英國的Wolverhampton的John Thompson實習了兩年，期間並完成了大學工業工程二年和三年班的課程。1970年我到Institute of Science and Technology, University of Manchester, 修讀碩士課程。一年後我取得碩士學位，並獲得獎學金修讀博士。我在1973年取博士學位，當時我還是一名只得25歲的年青人。

人生旅途的歸宿—新加坡

劉：為什麼你離開英國後會到新加坡工作？你有否考慮回香港發展？你在國立新加坡大學工作了三十多年，可否告訴我們你事業上的經歷？

倪：我在1974年到新加坡定居，因為我在英國邂逅了我的太太，她是馬來西亞人，新加坡比鄰馬來西亞，擇居於此可近娘家。加上我在英國畢業後，得到新加坡大學的聘書，後來英國的教授有意聘請我在大學做事，但我要信守承諾，所以決定到新加坡應聘。我在新大展開事業，渡過了很充實的三十個寒暑。我最初受聘為講師，到1989年擢升至正教授之職。我曾經擔任機械工程學系的系主任，工程學院院長，新加坡與麻省理工聯盟總監，現在我擔任國立新加坡大學研究辦公室主任。除了行政工作，我對研究仍有濃厚的興趣。我現時正指導十七名博士生，在十六本頂尖的學術

雜誌出任編輯成員。我出版了六本學術著作和發表了超過450篇論文。當然，與倪匡和亦舒相比，這是微不足道！我在2002年獲得英國曼徹斯特大學科學和科技學院(The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UMIST)頒發 Doctor of Engineering 榮銜，是新加坡唯一得此榮譽的人。

新加坡人、中國人、香港人

劉：你在新加坡的落葉生根，可否說說你的家庭生活？你在中國出生，在香港成長，在新加坡發展事業，你怎樣看待自己的身份？

倪：我有三位女兒，大女兒已出嫁，另外兩個女兒在澳洲讀書，現在彼邦工作。我在新加坡工作了三十年，在香港生活了十五年，在英國進修了六年，在加大拿又待過一年。如果現在你問我的身份，我會說我是新加坡籍華人。但是，我對香港有美好的回憶，我常常為自己會說廣東話而自豪，其實我的母語是上海話喲！

時間不斷流逝，我很希望聯絡上多年沒見的老師和同學。你們閱讀此文後，請與我聯絡，mpeneeyc@nus.edu.sg。

譯者後記

新加坡的天氣雖然炎熱，但四處遍植花草，馬路寬闊，烏節路上行人熙來攘往，但並不擁擠。由市中心坐計程車經高速公路到新加坡國立大學只須二十分鐘。拜會倪教授當天下著細雨，計程車在一座簇新的建築物前停下，這是剛啟用不久的行政大樓。我與倪教授是第一次見面，但大家並沒有感到陌生，因為在電郵中相逢已久。因著九龍工業學校，兩個身處兩地不同年代的陌生人一起暢談往事，這是多麼奇妙的事！

原文為英文稿，由劉偉華老師翻譯

Interview with Professor Nee Yeh-Ching Andrew (1965, S5)

Date: 18-8-2005(Thu)

About your family background

1. As we all know, your brother and sister are famed authors; would you tell us about your family background in China and your relationship with your siblings? Do you still have tied contact with them?

I maintain good ties with Ni Kuan and Yi Shu although they are residing in the US and Canada respectively. I have three other elder brothers and 1 elder sister who are living in China.

About your upbringing in Hong Kong

2. When did you come to Hong Kong? What difficulties had you faced in adapting the living in Hong Kong? How about your life in primary school?

My father moved to Hong Kong in 1952 when I was about 4. I don't remember having any difficulties in learning Cantonese or adapting to life in Hong Kong since a young kid is able to adapt to any environment. I must say that life in primary school in those days were good, plenty of play and work was not very heavy.

About your day in Fuk Wah Street Secondary Modern School (1961-63)

3. Why did you enter FWS Secondary Modern School? What was your life in the school? What do you feel about this type of school? (the life of government secondary modern school was short-lived; it just lasted for four years.)

I guess I was too playful and did not concentrate on my studies and did poorly in the Primary Six School Leaving Examination, and was hence posted to the experimental secondary modern school and my mother did not want to put me in a private school which was quite costly. I didn't fully realize that it was a totally different concept and a different type of school, except that there was a great deal of practical work such as metal and wood working. When I wore the blue overall and walked out of the school, I did receive strange stares, perhaps too young to be an apprentice then (age 13).

About your days in Kowloon Technical School (1963-65)

4. When you recall your memory in KTS, what is your most impressive episode?

What was your relationship with teachers and classmates? Do you remember some of them?

KTS was more like a proper school to me, but due to a relatively weak foundation of the three years at FWS Secondary School, we were not taught chemistry, which up to now, I still have a great regrets. Then principal Mr K C Lau was quite impressive, his voice was extremely powerful and commanding, maybe even intimidating. He sang once on stage (Ali Shan mountain girls) and

he sang well too. I remembered he played very good badminton and was a sportsman. He offered to recommend me to take up Form 6 in VTS and I was most grateful to his kind gesture. My fondest teachers were Mr YH Yeung and Mr Gee Yick, both from the FWS Secondary School days. Mr Yeung was a very impressive mathematics teacher, his notes were immaculate and his teaching style left a very deep impression on me and had molded my love for mathematics. He taught us linear programming in S4 which was well ahead of its time! Mr Gee was both our English and Chinese teacher. I often marveled how he could master both languages so well. His favorite novels were the Kon-Tiki Expedition, and the Chinese novel was Zhu Zhiqin's "Bei Ying". In KTS, the teachers that I remembered well were Ms Christina Ma and Ms SF Shum, the former was the attractive, fairy-tale lady, while the latter was the no nonsense, down to earth lady, both were good English teachers, Mr KK Poon-Chinese teacher whose calligraphic style of writing we all admired, Mr KK Wong-Book-keeping teacher who was extremely friendly and sincere, Ms SM Yeung-Physics teacher who was always soft spoken except on one occasion, she rushed into the classroom one morning with a hoarse voice and broke the bad news to us that JFK was assassinated in 1964, Mr KS Shum, brother of Ms SF Shum, who taught us geography. I had great love for this subject because of his teaching. I always remember his kindness of writing a reference letter for me to read Form 6 in QC. My favorite classmates were Yip Chak Pui (who sat next to me), Cheng Hoi Chuen, Lo Hin Chung, Tam Shum Tai, Lee Yuk Cheung, Lau Pok Lam, Kung Kan Yee, Lee Wai Kwok, Leung Hung Kwan, Yuen Chuk Yin, Lam Cheok Ting, and there are many more whose names have slowly faded from my memory.

About your days after leaving KTS

5. I know after you finished your S5 schooling, you went to UK for further study. Why did you have such decision? Why did you choose mechanical engineering as your life-long career?

I did not go to the UK immediately. I went to Hong Kong Technical College for the next three years and chose to study mechanical engineering. I was influenced by my immediate brother who impressed upon me that mechanical engineering was an evergreen discipline and he was absolutely right! I left for the UK after my graduation from HKTC in 1968, on a meritorious overseas training arrangement between several industries in the UK and HKTC.

About your career in Singapore

6. Why did you settle in Singapore after you left UK in 1970s? Had you thought about coming back to HK? Thirty years passed, could you tell something about your career in National University of Singapore? You are now the co-director of the Singapore-MIT Alliance, could you tell us about your work?

I settled in Singapore in 1974. The main reason was because I married my wife in the YK who was a Malaysian. Singapore became a natural destination between Malaysia and Hong Kong.

I have had a very fruitful time at the National University of Singapore, started as a lecturer in 1974 and rose through three ranks to a full professor in 1989. I have served as Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Dean of Admission, Director of Singapore-MIT Alliance, and presently, Director of Office of Research of NUS.

My work is usually split between teaching, research and administration. I maintain a very keen interest in research, I am currently supervising 17 PhD students and serving on 16 editorial boards of refereed journals. In terms of research publications, I have produced over 450 papers and 6 books (this is nothing compared to my brother and sister who have published hundreds). For my research accomplishment, I was awarded the Doctor of Engineering degree in 2002 by UMIST (Manchester). Doctor of Engineering is the highest academic degree and is generally known as the higher doctoral degree as the ordinary doctoral degree is the PhD which I received in 1973. I believe I could be the only one in Singapore with this degree.

About your life in Singapore

7. What is your family life in Singapore? You was born in Mainland China, brought up in Hong Kong and finally settled in Singapore. What do you feel about your identity? A Singaporean, Chinese or Hong Konger?

I have three daughters, the eldest is already married, the two younger ones have also completed their studies and are now working in Australia.

My identity is really that of a Singaporean Chinese as we have Singaporean Indian and Malay. I have spent 30 years in Singapore compared to 15 years in Hong Kong, 6 years in the UK and 1 year in Canada. I really can't claim that I am a Hong Konger any longer. I can only say that I have lived in Hong Kong in my earlier years and I have had extremely fond memory of Hong Kong. I am also proud to be able to speak good Cantonese as my mother tongue is Shanghainese.

If any of my classmates or teachers happen to read this interview, please contact me at the following address: mpeneeyc@nus.edu.sg. I wish to catch up with all of you before time runs out.

Reporter: Mr Lau Wai Wah