

# Cheng Lock's kin honoured

## Granddaughter recognised for helping develop oil palm industry

**SERDANG:** Tan Siok Choo, the granddaughter of the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The 62-year-old second daughter of the late Tun Tan Siew Sin received the Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy in Plantation Management from UPM Chancellor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah at the university's 39th convocation yesterday.

In his citation, Agriculture Faculty dean Prof Dr Abdul Shukur Juraimi said Siok Choo, as chairman of United Malacca Bhd (UMB), which Cheng Lock founded, had helped develop the national oil palm industry.

He said Siok Choo forged ties between UPM and UMB and was instrumental in getting a RM2mil grant to finance five UPM research projects.

This had a major impact on human capital, research and publication excellence at the university, he added.

Siok Choo, a law degree holder from the University of Bristol, who has held various positions in the world of corporate finance, stockbroking,

executive search and journalism, said the award was a recognition of the importance of agriculture management to the agriculture sector and the national economy.

"Managing estate is becoming more challenging and you need more graduates and more scientifically trained people for it," she said.

She urged more graduates to join the plantation sector and help it overcome challenges and grow the sector in new directions.

Prof Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, who is the Prime Minister's Science Adviser, received an honorary Doctor of Science PhD, while Weststar Aviation Services chairman Tan Sri Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim got an honorary doctorate in Engineering.

A total of 7,056 students graduated from UPM with 469 receiving PhDs.

A total of 1,860 and 4,299 received Master and Bachelor degrees respectively.

The Sultan of Selangor, in his speech, congratulated all for their success and urged them to strive for greater excellence.



**Recognition:** Siok Choo receiving her honorary doctorate from Sultan Sharafuddin.