

REVEREND DR SEONG GI CHO

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)

In determining to make this award the University wished to recognise the Reverend Seong Gi Cho's national and international leadership in the Christian churches, his leadership in Korean society and his contribution to the work of Charles Sturt University's School of Theology and to links between the Presbyterian Church of Korea and Australia.

Reverend Cho is the General Secretary of the PCK, a position he has held since 2004. The PCK is the largest denomination in Korea. As General Secretary, Reverend Cho has actively promoted ecumenical dialogue amongst the churches of Korea, including as General Secretary since 2006 of the Heads of Denominations for Church Unity. He has also led important Christian-Buddhist dialogue in Korea on behalf of the National Council of Churches in Korea.

Reverend Cho has strengthened the international engagement and leadership of the PCK. This has included work with the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches. It has also involved a special concern for Christian churches in Korean communities in China and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Partly as a result of Reverend Cho's work and initiative, Korea will host the 2013 Assembly of the world council of Churches.

Reverend Cho completed a BA at Soongsil University, then post-graduate studies in theology at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary and at the Melbourne College of Divinity. He has maintained a close interest in theological education and the universities in Korea linked to the PCK.

Reverend Cho has close links with Australia. From 1983 to 1987 he served as a pastor of the Korean church in Melbourne. He has maintained his links with this church and, more broadly, with the Uniting Church in Australia and its Korean congregations. As General Secretary he has developed strong partnerships with the UCA and has visited Australia annually. In 2009 Reverend Cho organised the celebrations of 120 years of mission partnership between Australia and Korea.

An important aspect of Reverend Cho's partnerships in Australia has been support for UCA projects in North Korea. These are amongst the few successful aid projects in that country.

Reverend Cho has strongly supported links between CSU's School of Theology and Korea. In 2012, under Reverend Cho's sponsorship and as a contribution to the celebrations of the centenary of the PCK, a program of PhD scholarships in theology at CSU for Korean students has been launched. Two three year scholarships for full time study in Australia will be awarded each year to students selected by Korean Christian universities and CSU.

Today we recognise and celebrate Reverend Cho's life of outstanding Christian leadership and of service to his nation and to Australian-Korean relations.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of July Two Thousand and Twelve