

YUAN T. LEE

(Chemistry, 1986)

Dr. Yuan T. Lee is a Taiwanese chemist and a prominent voice on the role of science in advancing human dignity. Through leadership positions internationally and within Taiwan, he has fostered understanding of the connections between science and human rights and worked to strengthen science for the benefit of society. A former President of the International Council for Science (ICSU, now International Science Council), from 2011 to 2014, Lee has been deeply involved in ICSU efforts to combat threats to freedom of speech, association, and other rights integral to the practice of science. With ICSU, and throughout his life, Lee has also helped to address discrimination within science and raise awareness of the responsibilities of scientists.

During his tenure as President of Taiwan's national academy, Academia Sinica, from 1994 to 2006, Lee helped strengthen the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies. He has also ensured Academia Sinica's active involvement in addressing threats to scientific freedom worldwide.

Lee emphasizes the importance of respect for human rights principles as part of his ongoing global advocacy to combat human caused climate change. Pointing to the particular threat that climate change poses for many marginalized individuals and communities, he argues forcefully for a response to this global challenge that helps ensure a more equitable and democratic world.

“The fundamental rights of every individual are linked, one to another, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural.”

