



LeCosPA Director Pisin Chen unfurls his hand-drawn national flag at the South Pole.

On June 21, the Gallery of NTU History hosted two ceremonies highlighting the major step NTU has taken into the vastness of the universe with its establishment of the Leung Center for Cosmology and Particle Astrophysics (LeCosPA). The first was a signing ceremony for a NT\$570 million donation by Quanta Computer Vice Chairman C.C. Leung, part of which will finance an endowment LeCosPA's continued operation.

The donation ceremony was followed by an unveiling ceremony of the ROC national flag that LeCosPA Director Pisin Chen unfurled last December at the South Pole while working on the installation of the ARA Observatory, an immense radio antenna array designed to detect neutrinos. The historic flag, which Director Chen made himself, is called the Antarctic Double Centennial National Flag because it was unfurled on the occasion of two grand centennials—those of the founding of Taiwan's government and the first human to reach the South Pole.

Addressing the ceremonies, President Si-chen Lee noted that while donations to the university usually go to fields with practical applications, such as electrical engineering and business management, Vice Chairman

Endowment Created for Cosmology Center's Perpetual Operation



Quanta Computer Vice Chairman C.C. Leung, who provided the donation for LeCosPA's endowment, was a classmate of LeCosPA Director Chen when they studied at NTU.

told the attendees that while he is a businessperson, physics remains his greatest love. Revealing an early source of this love, he recalled constructing a telescope with his classmates at NTU. Adding that the vastness of the universe provides limitless inspiration to humanity and that cosmology deserves investment and research, Leung proclaimed that his modest donation was only a beginning and



Vice Chairman Leung's NT\$250-million donation for LeCosPA's establishment in 1997 allowed NTU to step onto the world stage in the field of cosmology.

Leung's donation was motivated purely by his love of knowledge. President Lee said the endowment would allow LeCosPA to play a leading role in cosmology.

Notably, Vice Chairman Leung's donation follows up a NT\$250 million donation he provided for the establishment of LeCosPA's in 1997. Since then, the center has allowed NTU to become a global power in the fields of cosmology and astrophysics. Leung's latest donation allocates NT\$350 million for the construction of a research building and NT\$200 million for the endowment fund. This donation of about US\$19 million is the largest single donation ever made in the field of cosmology.

Vice Chairman Leung, a graduate of NTU's Department of Physics,

that he looks forward to seeing this investment lead to world-class breakthroughs.

LeCosPA Director Pisin Chen spoke about the center's participation in ARA Observatory programs. LeCosPA is presently working with an international team on the construction of two new antennae stations for the array that will be buried beneath the Antarctic ice this winter. Additionally, the center is cooperating with scientists from nine nations, including the United States and Russia, on the Ultra Fast Flash Observatory (UFFO), a satellite that will detect early photons from gamma-ray bursts. The launch is scheduled for next April.