

'My World of Physics' Talk by Prof Kerson Huang at NUS High School on 18 January 2012



On 18 January 2012, Professor Kerson Huang, a Chinese-American theoretical physicist who is currently the Professor of Physics Emeritus at MIT as well as the Visiting Professor of the Institute of Advanced Studies at NTU, delivered a lecture entitled 'My World of Physics' at NUS High School. The talk was held at the theatrette between 4pm and 5pm.

In his lecture, Prof Kerson Huang gave an overview of physics with a historical perspective. He opened his lecture with a wistful contemplation of how modern-day technological advancements in equipment have given us immense insights into the world of physics on both sides of the scale – the realm of quarks on one hand, and the realm of the nebulae and the cosmos on the other. This was followed by an interesting segment on the history and development of modern physics, beginning in the 16th century and featuring such famous historical physicists as Galileo, Newton and Maxwell, as well as their contributions to physics. He also discussed his current research, which included protein folding and cosmology, in particular, dark energy. Prof Kerson Huang's lecture, which included many pictures extracted from his research and several meaningful quotes, greatly engaged the audience, which comprised the Year 5 Physics Honors students, numerous teachers, and students from other levels and schools, who altogether filled the Theatrette in their enthusiasm and love for physics.



Afterwards, there was a question-and-answer session where Prof Kerson Huang fielded intriguing questions from students and teachers alike, which brought in a wide range of other topics including biophysics and prions. Prof Kerson Huang was presented with a token of appreciation by the principal of NUS High School, Dr Hang Kim Hoo, for his time and effort. He then joined the audience in a tea session, and gladly engaged the audience, enthusiastically answering the

queries posed by the students and teachers present, and engaging in various conversations with the students and teachers.



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