

Taiwan's technology legend remembered with graduate fellowship



Groundbreaking: Taiwan's seminal Hsinchu Park took shape under Irving Ho, M.S. '57, Ph.D. '61 (center).

In 1956, Irving Ho was a graduate student newly arrived from Taiwan to study under Stanford's then dean of engineering Frederick Terman. As Terman oversaw the creation of Stanford Research Park—the first technology-driven development of its kind—Ho witnessed the birth of Silicon Valley. In time, he replicated his mentor's feat, creating the industrial park that launched Taiwan's technology industry.

Ho was an educator and businessman who inspired many of his students to pursue careers in technology. Now a group of them are creating the Irving T. Ho Memorial Engineering Graduate Fellowship in memory of Ho, M.S. '57, Ph.D. '61, who died of lymphoma last year in his Campbell, Calif., home at the age of 82.

Ho's early career took him to IBM's East Fishkill Laboratory in New York and to Fairchild Semiconductor, a pioneer in California's technology boom. In the mid-1970s, he combined business with teaching stints at Stanford and National Taiwan University (NTU), where he became chair of electrical engineering in 1974.

At that time, "Taiwan was very poor," recalls Laung-Terng "L.-T." Wang, M.S. '82, Ph.D. '87, then a student of Ho's at NTU. "The country had some computer assembly companies, but no research and development firms." That began to change when the government tapped Ho to start up Hsinchu Science-Based Industrial Park.

Today nearly 500 companies occupy the complex, where

Wang says annual revenues top \$25 billion. The park's Web site notes it is responsible for more than 100,000 new jobs and 10 percent of Taiwan's GNP.

Ho also served as vice chairman of the National Science Council (Taiwan's equivalent of the National Science Foundation in the United States) and headed the Institute for Information and Industry, where he championed Taiwan's burgeoning software and information sector.

The Stanford engineering fellowship in Ho's honor was the brainchild of eight of his former students, including three Stanford graduates: Wang; Chong-Cheng Fu, M.S. '79, Ph.D. '82; and Nicky C.C. Lu, M.S. '78, Ph.D. '81. The fellowship is being initiated with gifts from Wang, Fu, Paul Y.F. and Jessica Wu, Jiannchin "J.C." Dorn, and David and Janet Chyan. All eight credit Ho with helping them launch successful careers in technology.

"We owe a great deal to him," says Wang. Through the Irving Ho Memorial Foundation in Taiwan, members of the group, led by Ho's nephew Bang-Li Ho, also are funding a professorship in his memory at NTU and undergraduate scholarships at six Chinese universities.

Contributions to the Stanford fellowship also come from Ho's family, including the two of his four children who attended Stanford, Charles Pang-Hsin Ho, Ph.D. '79, M.D. '84, and Linda P. Ho, M.S. '89. He is also survived by his wife, Ying Chen.

"A fellowship at Stanford fits right in with Dr. Ho's commitment to educating students in need," says Wang. "We're hoping this fellowship can help future scholars create a big impact on society, just as he did."