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## **Expert Reference Letter**

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to provide this expert reference in support of Professor Eng Gee Lim of Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University for the National Teaching Achievement Award (国家教学成果奖).

I currently serve as Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. My academic and professional experience covers teaching, research, and academic management in mobile communications, satellite communications, and wireless networks. Before joining the University of Nottingham Ningbo China, I had already accumulated more than fifteen years of teaching experience in higher education. I have taught modules including Mobile Communications with Project, Computer Aided Engineering, Professional Studies, Mobile Technologies, and Software Engineering Design, and I have continually updated course content and practical projects in response to developments such as 5G, heterogeneous networks, and modern communication systems. I have also served the Institution of Engineering and Technology as Chair of the IET Malaysia Local Network and as a member of the IET Council, and have participated in professional review interviews for Chartered Engineer and Incorporated Engineer candidates.

The University of Nottingham Ningbo China and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University are both Sino-foreign universities. We therefore face similar educational challenges, including curriculum internationalisation, the education of Chinese and international students, the organisation of cross-cultural classrooms, and the adaptation of international educational standards to the Chinese higher education context. Through academic exchanges on programme development, curriculum design, teaching quality, and student development, I have developed a strong appreciation of Professor Lim's educational work and of XJTLU's progressive international education model of "Interest-Ability-Mission".

In my view, this model is a distinctive and valuable contribution to engineering education. Rather than treating knowledge acquisition, skills development, and values education as separate elements, it first stimulates students' interest through interdisciplinary courses and open-ended projects. It then develops professional abilities through team-based learning, collaboration between Chinese and international students, and structured academic guidance. At the same time, it brings industrial challenges and societal needs into the classroom, enabling students to understand the practical value of their studies and their responsibilities as future engineers.

This approach has also provided useful reference for our own curriculum development. In modules such as Mobile Communications and Software Engineering Design, I now place greater emphasis on linking students' interests with project content. Real communication scenarios and system design problems are introduced, and students work in groups to complete requirements analysis, software development, system validation, and final presentations. Students from different academic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to work in mixed teams, supported by staged discussions and continuous feedback. This helps strengthen professional communication, teamwork, and the ability to solve complex engineering problems.

From the perspective of departmental academic management and professional engineering review, I consider the value of this educational approach to lie in its strong connection between curriculum objectives, project-based learning, student capability development, and professional responsibility. Students' abilities are

not assessed only through examinations; instead, they are progressively developed and demonstrated through teamwork, system design, technical presentation, engineering judgement, and reflection on real-world applications.

Based on my professional judgement, I consider Professor Eng Gee Lim's teaching achievement to be innovative, coherent, and practically valuable. It addresses important challenges in engineering education, particularly in an internationalised and cross-cultural learning environment, and it offers clear reference value for related programmes in Sino-foreign universities. I am therefore pleased to support this application for the National Teaching Achievement Award.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. F. Kwong', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

**Dr C. F. Kwong, PhD CEng MIET SMIEEE SFHEA**  
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