Distinguished Professor Phoon Kok Kwang
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

"A teacher in search of his/her own freedom may be the only kind of teacher who can arouse young persons to go in search of their own."
— Dialectics of Freedom (1988), Maxine Greene

Distinguished Professor Phoon Kok Kwang believes that every graduate must take away something of value beyond knowledge and abilities from their learning experience in NUS. Some of the values he inculcates in his students are an ability to think critically, a sense of self-belief to pursue valued personal goals, and a responsibility to act to benefit society at large. He views education as a fellowship in learning between the teacher and the student. His down to earth style of teaching with a personal touch has exercised longer range and more profound impact on his students, beyond grooming them as civil engineers within the classroom. Many of his former students continue to stay in touch and to seek his mentorship years after graduation, which is a glowing testament to his reputation as a gifted educator who cares deeply for his students.