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Winthrop Professor

John Curtin Distinguished Professor

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**Winthrop Professor Dongke Zhang FTSE**, obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Newcastle, NSW in 1993. He then joined the Department of Chemical Engineering at Adelaide University as a lecturer, was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1996 and Associate Professor in 1998, and served as Deputy Head of Department between 1997 and 1998. During 1998-99, he was the leader of a team of researchers from Adelaide University and engineers from Fuel and Combustion Technology Pty Ltd (FCT) who successfully designed the fuel and combustion system for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Relay Torches. In 1999, he was appointed Professor of Chemical Engineering at Curtin University of Technology and served as Head of Department of Chemical Engineering from 1999 to 2001. In 2000, he established, and subsequently raised substantial funding for, and managed the Centre for Fuels and Energy at Curtin and served as the foundation Director of the Centre. In March 2008, he was appointed the Foundation Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director of Centre for Energy at The University of Western Australia.

His research interests spread over combustion science and fuel technology; pollution control associated with combustion and energy conversion processes; coal and biomass pyrolysis, combustion and gasification; natural gas combustion and reforming; gas to liquid, coal to liquid and biomass to liquid, petroleum processing and refining; solid waste minimisation and utilisation by thermal and biological means; homogeneous combustion catalysts for internal combustion engines; chemical reaction engineering and kinetics; applied catalysis and surface science; power generation and energy efficiency; CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies and abatement strategies, including integrated biofuel production and carbon biosequestration; and energy options and sustainable energy development. Zhang has successfully raised and managed funding for research, valued more than A\$36 millions over his 18 years academic career, from the Commonwealth and States Governments, and Australian and overseas governments and industries.

Winthrop Professor Dongke Zhang was elected to the Fellowship of Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) in 2004, named John Curtin Distinguished Professor in 2007 and was selected to the rank of the Top 100 Most Influential Engineers of Australia by Engineers Australia in 2011.

A contemporary scientist and a “*can-do*” engineer, Winthrop Professor Dongke Zhang has conceptualised, trialled, and succeeded in his theories and practice in developing a modern University – industry relationship. He believes that the true value of academic research is best measured by its practical use. Knowledge belongs to the society and technology belongs to the industry. He works closely with the industry to rapidly disseminate his knowledge to the society and industry. He has repeatedly demonstrated his ability and the “dare to push the limits” attitude in successfully transforming his scientific imaginations into commercial realities through persistent strategic fundamental research, tactical applied research and technological innovations.

He served as the Chief Scientist and Technical Adviser of Spitfire Oil Ltd and a Cabinet Member of Alcoa World Conservation and Sustainability Fellowship program. He has also served in senior technical consultant and senior scientific adviser posts with BHP-Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, BHPBilliton Nickel West Mt Keith Operations, Fuel Technology Pty Ltd, ENN Ltd, Ansac Pty Ltd, Devereaux Holding Pty Ltd, Wesfarmers, Chemeq Ltd, and Hydrogen Technology Ltd.