



Endowed  
Chairs

# Professor Cheah Kok Wai

## Dr. Elizabeth K.S. Law Endowed Chair of Advanced Materials

Professor Cheah Kok Wai has been Chair Professor of the Department of Physics since 2010. He obtained his Bachelor of Science (Honour) degree in Physics, then Master of Science degree in Science of Materials, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Imperial College, London. Professor Cheah is one of the few academics who have solid industry exposure. After receiving his doctoral degree, he spent 10 years in UK industry, including 8 years in Astrium Space.

Among his most notable works is the invention of ArmoGlass. As a result of creating this revolutionary product, Professor Cheah received HK\$2 million from the HKSAR Government to start up a company, Cathay Photonics Limited, to facilitate knowledge transfer to the community. In 2016 at the 44th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, the world's largest event of its kind, ArmoGlass stood out from 1,000 projects from 40 countries and won the Grand Prix Award. The company beat 99 other finalists and won champion in the Elevator Pitch Competition in 2017.

In his early days at HKBU, Professor Cheah conducted research on the luminescence property of porous silicon, and based on this work the silicon-based ultra-violet light emitting diode was developed. These ground-breaking discoveries led not only to a number of publications but also three US patents, one of which being the first patent for an HKBU staff member. By June 2017, Professor Cheah possessed 12 US patents, 2 Chinese patents and 1 patent under the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Over the years, Professor Cheah's distinguished scholarly work has secured over 45 grants.

Professor Cheah is the founder and Director of the Institute of Advanced Materials at HKBU. A prolific scholar, Professor Cheah has presented or published more than 290 papers at international conferences and in top-tier journals. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, UK, in 2013.