

Jayakumar returns to NUS law faculty

AFTER three decades in politics, former Senior Minister S. Jayakumar will return to the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Faculty of Law as Professor of Law on Oct 22.

His appointment was announced yesterday on the NUS website, which said he had waived any remuneration for the position.

The Law dean, Professor Tan Cheng Han, said Prof Jayakumar will provide guidance and advice to the faculty's Centre for International Law, where he has been the patron since its launch in October 2009.

The centre's goal is to be a leading think-tank on international law and policy.

At its launch two years ago, Prof Jayakumar noted that Singapore needed to develop its expertise in international law so that it can help shape legislation that affects it.

Prof Jayakumar himself was a member of Singapore's delegation to the United Na-

tions Law of the Sea Conference from 1974 to 1979.

At NUS, Prof Jayakumar will also conduct seminars on international law, exploring the interplay between international law, diplomacy and policy.

The website reported him saying: "I am delighted to be back at my alma mater where I taught law before entering politics.

"The Law Faculty has an excellent reputation today. The Centre for International Law has the potential to become a leading body for international law and policy.

"I am happy to be associated with both of them."

A law graduate from the University of Singapore's Class of 1963, Prof Jayakumar taught at the faculty from 1964 to 1981, and was its dean from 1974 to 1980.

The university merged with Nanyang University (Nantah) to form NUS in 1980.

In a Straits Times interview in June, Prof Jayakumar noted that he had merely "been on leave" from the university, remaining a professor throughout his time in politics.

He became an MP in 1980 and went on to head key ministries, including Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Law.

He was Deputy Prime Minister from 2004 to 2009 and Senior Minister, from 2009 until he retired from politics before the May General Election.

Announcing his return to the faculty, Prof Tan said: "Prof Jayakumar is a distinguished jurist who has contributed greatly to Singapore's standing internationally.

"His unique experience over many years in law, public policy, and international law will be invaluable to students interested in a career in those areas."