

2011 LAS PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD

NGIAN LEK CHOH

Ngian Lek Choh, has been a superb and devoted librarian, leader and administrator since 1977, who has quietly, yet astutely helped to transform libraries under the National Library Board (NLB) into a world class public library system.

After having led both Public and National Library Groups, her vision, passion, and intellect combined with a pragmatic, efficient, yet exceptionally compassionate management style was recognized and she was eventually appointed the Deputy Chief Executive of the NLB. Along the way, she oversaw the library's computerization effort, introduced ground breaking technology, established conveniently located libraries, helped to create the goals for the new National Library, put in place cutting edge digital services to facilitate access to library resources, enhanced programs for the public, applied best in class management practices and expanded international outreach initiatives.

Ngian's involvement in the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) has also been a highlight of her career. She participated in or chaired key committees and ultimately served as the LAS President from 2007 to 2009. Some of her main accomplishments at LAS have included helping to develop Singapore's information plan, creating competency standards, developing mentoring programs, attempting to attract new librarians to the profession, organizing conferences, fostering the Special Libraries Section, implementing the Professional Development Scheme and, perhaps most important, building critical bonds between the NLB and LAS.

On the international front, Ngian is currently Vice-Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) where she helps to promote cooperation and understanding among National Libraries and is a Member of the IFLA Section for National Libraries.

In recognition of an awe inspiring track record of commitment, innovation and enhancement of services and service standards within the National Library System and LAS, it is a privilege to honor Ngian Lek Choh with the LAS 2011 Professional Service Award.