

2015 LAS Passion Award

IAN YAP

Ian Yap has excelled in his 17 year career with NLB. He is recognized as an innovator and motivator whose passion for librarianship has thus far allowed him to make many invaluable contributions to NLB and the wider community.

Ian has served in many critical positions across disciplines within NLB. He oversaw school library services, assisted in managing a public library, setup and ran MOE's Professional Development library, headed the public libraries' children's services, and managed public library programmes, marketing and partnerships.

Some of his major achievements in these roles include recognition for NLB's best client site library for two years as a result of READ@TN; implementing the bookcrossing movement and Book Exchange, where 60,000 books were exchanged during the annual event; and initiating the Junior Reading Ambassador Programme, where children advocates motivated the young to read. Ian currently leads Read! Singapore, the nationwide campaign to promote reading, arts, and culture programming in public libraries for adults and seniors. Ian has also been recognized for his management skills, receiving the first NLB Best Manager Award in 2008.

Ian plays an important role in IFLA. From 2009-2012, he was the Information Coordinator for the IFLA Section for Services to Children & Young Adults, where he launched the Sister Libraries project to create collaborative partnerships among libraries, promoted children's services globally, and assisted with the World of Picture books project, where countries nominated their best children's books for a roving world exhibition.

Ian was also instrumental in organizing the IFLA World Library Congress 2013 in Singapore, including the opening and closing ceremonies, public lectures by IFLA members and a cultural evening. In the same year, Ian managed the 2nd Summit of the Book, which brought together global thought leaders to discuss library, publishing, and reading trends.

Since 2013, Ian has been the Regional Manager for IFLA's Regional Office (Asia & Oceania) where he organised capacity building workshops for librarians and library leaders, including the 2015 workshop for LAS members with the Brunei Darussalam Library Association to build stronger library associations in ASEAN, to advocate for access to information and libraries in developing countries, to present on library trends, and to seek partnerships and sponsorships to build libraries in disaster-torn areas in Asia.

For his selfless devotion and endless contributions to public libraries and the library profession in Singapore and overseas, it is a privilege to honour Ian Yap with the 2015 LAS Passion Award.