

## **2018 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AWARD**

### **KIANG-KOH LAI LIN**

Mrs Kiang-Koh Lai Lin has been an enthusiastic advocate of reading, sharing her passion for books with both young and old over her 40-year career with the public libraries. She has inspired and mentored many young librarians, who have since grown to hold key professional and management positions.

Her notable achievements are setting up and management of Community Children's Libraries at HDB void decks in the 1990s, for children to gain easy access to library books and programmes, at a time when there were not as many public libraries as today. In 2001, she launched the "Born to Read, Read to Bond" project, where reading pouches for babies were distributed to 30,000 parents of newborns in hospitals to encourage parents to start reading to their children at a young age. For the "National kidsREAD programme" launched in 2004, Mrs. Kiang led the team to reach out to over 20,000 disadvantaged children to instill a love for books in them. She also led the nationwide READ! Singapore campaign launched in 2005, to promote a culture of reading in Singapore in the 4 official languages. She displayed great professional leadership in making the READ! Singapore a success, reaching out to more than 600,000 readers. Not only was she able to rally support from schools and teachers, she was also able to motivate non-readers such as hairdressers, taxi drivers and service staff to form reading clubs, coming together to share ideas and enrich one another's lives.

Mrs Kiang is a Life Member of LAS. She served on the Publications Committee as Distribution Manager in the 1980s, and Chair of the Programmes and Social Committee from 2001 to 2003.

On the international front, Mrs Kiang served as a Committee Member of Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section, IFLA from 2000 to 2005. She edited the newsletter for the Section from 2003 to 2005 and received the "Best Newsletter of the Year Award 2005" during IFLA WLIC in Oslo. She received CONSAL's "Outstanding Librarian Award – Silver Medal" in 2009 during the 14th General Conference of the CONSAL in Hanoi, for her contributions to promoting, nurturing, and sustaining reading in Singapore.

She received the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 1990. She has been the President of the Society for Reading and Literacy in Singapore since 2018 and has served as council member and secretary since 2014. She has been working with the Oral History Centre to interview political and community leaders from 2014. She continues to contribute to the reading and literacy scene in Singapore, sharing her expertise and exercising her influence as a librarian.

LAS is delighted to honour Mrs Kiang-Koh Lai Lin with the 2018 LAS Professional Service Award.



Samantha Ang  
President, Library Association of Singapore  
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