

2023 LAS LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

NGIAN LEK CHOH

Ngian Lek Choh is being honoured with the 2023 LAS Lifetime Contribution Award for her valuable contribution to the library profession in Singapore. She is better known as Ms Ngian or Ngian, with all her colleagues and fellow professionals, be it locally or internationally.

Ms Ngian started her library career since 1977, where she has quietly and yet astutely transformed libraries under the National Library Board (NLB) into a world class public library system. She has been equally active in the Library Association of Singapore (LAS) since she joined the library profession. Between 2005 to 2011, she was the Vice-President, President and Immediate President of LAS. During her tenure, she led the team in organising the Istana Reception to Librarians & Information Professionals in 2008 where the late President Nathan hosted the librarian community in Istana. Other accomplishments included helping to develop Singapore's information plan, creating competency standards, developing mentoring programmes, organizing conferences, implementing the Professional Development Scheme, and perhaps most important, building critical bonds between the NLB and LAS.

She has been a dedicated librarian, leader and administrator, leading both Public and National Library Groups in NLB. Her pragmatic, efficient, yet exceptionally compassionate management style, was recognised and she was eventually appointed the Deputy Chief Executive of NLB. Along the way, she oversaw the library's computerization efforts, introduced groundbreaking technology, helped to create goals for the new National Library, putting in place digital services to facilitate access to library resources, and expanded international outreach initiatives.

On the international front, Ms Ngian was the Vice-Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) from 2011 to 2012 where she helped to promote cooperation and understanding among National Libraries. She was also appointed as International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA) Governing Board member from 2013 to 2017. She played an instrumental role in the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) Singapore in 2013 as she was one of the National Organising Committee members.

Ms Ngian received the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2000, as well as 2011 LAS Professional Service Award in recognition of her work and achievements.

LAS is privileged to present Ngian Lek Choh with the Lifetime Contribution Award in appreciation of her passionate and dedicated service to championing libraries locally and internationally.