

Distinguished Science Alumni Awards 2007
YIP Soon Kwong John, PJG, PBS

BSc 1959, BSc(Hons) 1960

Director of Education, Ministry of Education (1987-1996)

Executive Director/CEO, Singapore Institute of Management (1997-2003)

John YIP Soon Kwong received his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Chemistry from the then University of Malaya in Singapore in 1960.

On graduation, Dr YIP joined the Education Service and served in various portfolios till his retirement in 1996. His last appointment was Director of Education of the Ministry of Education, a position he held for 10 years. During his tenure at the Ministry, he pursued relentlessly the development of educational excellence in both the Singapore and global context. He received several National Day awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal (PJG) in 1991. The French Government also honoured him with the award of Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques in 1993.

Dr YIP has done extensive research in education policies and practices. Of particular significance is the six-country collaborative research project on the nexus between education and economic development spearheaded with the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. He co-authored two books on Reflections and Renewal in Education in Singapore, one tracing the Evolution of Educational Excellence and the other the Development of Technical Education up to the tertiary level.

His passion for education prompted him to move on to the Singapore Institute of Management as the Executive Director and CEO upon his retirement from the Ministry. In this position, he played a major role in conceptualizing the Singapore Management University (SMU) as well as the SIM University (UniSIM), the latter providing working adults with a "second chance" to obtain a university degree. In 1997, he was conferred an Honorary DSc by Loughborough University, an accolade shared by several well-known personalities including NUS President Prof Shih Choon Fong. And in 2003, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University of the UK.

Dr YIP is an Honorary Fellow of the Singapore National Institute of Chemistry and the Singapore Institute of Management. He was on the Board of a number of statutory and other organizations tasked with teacher education, technical and vocational education, educational management, promotion of science, the arts and the environment, among others. He was also active in several international professional bodies. A contribution he is especially proud of is bringing to realization the Government-funded Singapore International School in Hong Kong, which is among the top international schools in the SAR.

"Education empowers one to seek the truth and science illuminates the way."

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

TAI Cheong Hui

BSc (Pharm) 1981

Vice President, Asia Pacific Region, Serono Singapore Pte Ltd

Mr TAI Cheong Hui enrolled into the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) in 1979. As a student, he participated actively in student activities, especially in the National University of Singapore Pharmaceutical Society (NUSPS) and was the President of the society for a year. Mr TAI graduated from NUS in 1981. In addition to his BSc (Pharm) degree, he also obtained two diplomas and a Master of Business Administration from University of Hull (UK), while establishing his early career.

Mr TAI started his career as a Sales Executive with Xepa-Soul Pattinson, and worked his way through various companies, while speedily rising through the ranks. He was a Marketing Executive with Diethelm Singapore (1983--84), a Manager with Apex Pharmacy Singapore (1984--87), a Marketing Manager with Bayer Singapore (1987--88) and then to Serono starting as a Regional Manager (1988). It is at Serono that he ascended the corporate ladder, from being a Regional Manager to Director of Operations (1991), to his present position as the Vice President -- Asia Pacific Region of Serono Singapore (1994 till present). Distinctly, he stands as the only Asian Regional Vice President in Serono.

As the Vice-President, Mr TAI started branching out Serono's network by establishing Serono subsidiaries throughout the region, starting from Taiwan (1994), South Korea (1995), Hong Kong (1996), China (1996), and Thailand (1998). He is also actively involved in the regional management of thirteen countries, including Indian Subcontinent, East Asia (China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and Australia/New Zealand), and South-East Asia. Apart from expanding operations and targeting higher sales, Mr TAI also assumes full P&L responsibilities with integrated responsibilities of Clinical, Regulatory, Sales and Marketing, Finance, Taxation, supply chain of all legal entities and distributors management through out the region. Over the past 19 years, he was pivotal in many of the new and emerging markets in Asia-Pacific. His leadership was instrumental to bringing business of Serono in Asia Pacific to where it is today.

"Persistence is the twin sister of excellence. One is a matter of quality; the other, a matter of time." -- Marabel Morgan

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

Bernard Ming Deh HARRISON

MSc 1987

Principal Partner (Creativity & Design), Bernard Harrison & Friends Ltd

Bernard HARRISON is the 'zoo man' behind the success of the Singapore Zoological Gardens and the Night Safari. He joined the Zoo as Curator of Zoology in 1973, and swiftly went to positions such as Assistant Director, Executive Director, Chief Executive of the Zoo and Night Safari, and finally, Chief Executive Officer of Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS). When the WRS Consultancy was set up under his leadership, Bernard was involved in the planning & development of zoo projects in China, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, United Arab Emirates & the Seychelles.

He set up Bernard Harrison & Friends Ltd in 2002 as a consultancy firm specialising in zoo design and management. Long involved in the international zoo scene, it is a roll of posts that he currently holds several major responsibilities. He is a member of the WRS Animal Welfare & Ethics Committee, Executive Board member & Immediate Past President of South East Asian Zoos Association (SEAZA), member of IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), World Council Board Member of International Association of Theme Park & Attractions (IAAPA) and World Board Member of International Species Inventory System (ISIS). He was also on the Council of the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums (WAZA), & subsequently became its Secretary and Vice President.

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

WONG Kwei Cheong, PBM

BSc 1965 BSc(Hons) 1966

Member of Parliament for Cairnhill Constituency (1980 to 1996)

Minister of State, Ministry of Labour (1981 to 1983) and Ministry of Trade and Industry (1982 to 1985)

WONG Kwei Cheong has a distinguished career with both the government of Singapore and in the private sector. He was a Member of Parliament for Cairnhill from 1980 to 1996 and has served as Minister of State in both the Ministry of Labour (1981 to 1983) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (1982 to 1985). In addition, Dr WONG was on the board of directors of several statutory boards and public organizations, including the chairmanship of the Singapore Productivity Board and the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, as well as being a member of the Singapore Science Centre Board. Dr WONG was awarded the Pingat Bakti Masyarakat (The Public Service Medal) in 1979.

Dr WONG's experience in the private sector includes the chairmanship of Aiwa Singapore and Vicom Pte Ltd. He presently runs his own business and serves as an Independent Director of several listed companies including Vantage Corporation Ltd, Goldtron Ltd and Penton International Ltd.

Dr WONG has had experience in academia as well, first as physics staff in University of Singapore and later as an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration, NUS (1986 to 1996).

Dr WONG studied Physics in the University of Singapore under a State Scholarship where he graduated with a First Class Honours degree in 1966. He continued his studies at the Imperial College of Science and Technologies, University of London, under a Commonwealth Scholarship and graduated in 1969 with a Doctorate in Philosophy in Solid State Physics.

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

CHONG Yoke Sin

BSc 1978, BSc(Hons) 1979, PhD 1984

CEO, National Computer Systems

Coming from a humble background, CHONG Yoke Sin was spurred to excel in her education. She graduated with BSc(Hons) and PhD degrees in Chemistry from the National University of Singapore in 1979 and 1984, respectively. In her quest for self improvement, she subsequently completed the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1998.

Upon graduation from NUS in 1983, she joined IBM Corporation as a systems engineer where she sold and implemented solutions on mainframes to customers in the banking, government and region. After nine long years, she joined Hitachi Data Systems in 1992 where she looked after its consulting and systems implementation business for four years. Dr CHONG joined the National Computer Systems (NCS) in 1996 starting as General Manager for Business Development and setup its sales and contracts processes for the newly corporatised NCS. With her commercial experience and background, she was a key member in defining the company's directions and has led the NCS teams to win and deliver major IT projects, both locally as well as overseas. She was also active in the company's branding strategy as well as its continuous company-wide initiatives, playing an instrumental role in the growth of the company since corporatisation in 1996.

She subsequently progressed to assume the position of Chief Operating Officer and head of NCS' regional IT and communications engineering group. Nine years later, in 2005, in recognition of her contributions and capabilities, Dr CHONG was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of NCS, leading a team of 3000 professionals in one of Singapore's largest home grown information technology companies to become a forerunner IT and communications engineering services provider in the region. Under her successful realm, the business of NCS has grown tremendously with new major projects in Australia, Brunei, Hong Kong, Middle East, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Fiji.

A well-respected veteran in the IT industry, she is active in several IT and business associations. Dr CHONG is Vice-Chairman of the Singapore IT Federation (SITF) and also Chairman of the eGovernment Chapter of SITF. As eGov Chair, she leads Singapore companies in their forays for business with overseas Governments. She is also a member of the SICC IT advisory committee. Dr Chong also oversees several national project implementations and is member of many steering committees.

She also helps with university and polytechnic curriculum advice, and is a member of the NUS School of IT Advisory Council, the Ngee Ann Polytechnic School of IT advisory board and also Chairman of Innova Junior College. Recently, she was appointed to the Women's Leadership Board of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University where she advises on the public policy curriculum and programs of the KSG.

"It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts."

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

FOO Hee Jug

BSc 1989, BSc(Hons) 1990

Chief Operating Officer, Singapore General Hospital & Group Chief Procurement Officer, Singapore Health Services

Mr FOO was awarded a Local Merit Scholarship (Police) in 1986 and pursued his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Science, NUS. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with 2nd Class Honours (Upper Division).

After receiving basic training at the Police Academy, he was posted to Bedok Police Division as an investigation officer. He spent 3 fulfilling and exciting years with the Singapore Police Force. In 1993, Mr FOO joined Toa Payoh Hospital as an Operations Executive. In 1995, he took up an overseas scholarship with Toa Payoh Hospital, and graduated in 1998 with Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Public Health (Health Services Management) from the Anderson School, University of California, Los Angeles.

During his 11-year career with Toa Payoh Hospital and later Changi General Hospital, Mr Foo rose swiftly through the ranks, becoming Chief Operating Officer in January 2002.

In April 2004, Mr FOO left Changi General Hospital, and joined Singapore General Hospital as its Chief Operating Officer. He is concurrently the Group Chief Procurement Officer (GCPO) of Singapore Health Services (SingHealth).

Mr FOO has successfully established himself in the healthcare industry, becoming the Chief Operating Officer of SGH at the age of 37. He currently holds two portfolios and continues to make significant contributions to Singapore's healthcare industry.

"If you love the rainbow, you have to take the rain" -- Be prepared to work hard to reach your dream.

Outstanding Science Alumni Awards 2007

CHAN Ching Ooi

BPharm 1961, BPharm(Hons) 1962

CEO, ISS Education Group, ISS International School (Singapore)

Mrs CHAN Ching Oi graduated from the Department of Pharmacy, University of Singapore in 1962. Then, there were only sixteen students in the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree class and only three students in the Honours class, of which Mrs CHAN was one of the Honours students. In addition to her BPharm degree, Mrs CHAN also received a Masters in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from the University of California (San Francisco). In the early part of her career, she spent 28 years with the Ministry of Health in Singapore, with roles of Deputy Chief Pharmacist of the Pharmaceutical Department, Ministry of Health and Pharmacy Manager of Singapore General Hospital.

Mrs CHAN is currently the Chief Executive Officer of ISS Education Group, which manages the ISS International School (Singapore). ISS International School (Singapore) offers various levels of education in a multi-cultural environment and it have just celebrated its 25th anniversary in September 2006. The ISS Group started their second school, the Beijing BISS International School in Beijing in 1994. It was the first international school to be approved by the Beijing State Education Commission. In addition, the Center for American Education (CAE), another division under the ISS Education Group, is also appointed by the US State Department to run the United States Education Information Center since 1998.

Besides her accomplishment in her career, Mrs CHAN is also very supportive of community work. She is a Board Member in the Ren Ci Hospital & Medicare Centre, acting as the Honorary Secretary. She also regularly supports events like 'Every Woman Counts!', organised by the University Women's Association (UWAS), by offering the usage of her facilities.

"I believe in life long learning; by continuing to be active in my work and life style, I could maintain good health and a happy spirit and feel a sense of satisfaction and contentment."