

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

Information Division Ministry of Culture City Hall, Singapore 0617 TEL 3378191 ext 352 353 354 3362207 3362271

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SPEECH BY MR LEE KHOON CHOY, SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE  
(PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF  
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION, AT THE PRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S  
ASSOCIATION AWARDS AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE AUDITORIUM  
ON THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1983 AT 7.30 PM

We have gathered here this evening to pay tribute to another group of Community Centre Management Committee (CCMC) and Women's Sub-Committee (WSC) members who have dedicated long years of service to the people and the community. For this year, we will present awards to 439 CCMC and WSC members who have served for ten years or more. The number is the largest ever since we launched the People's Association (PA) Awards Scheme seven years ago. Of this, 47 CCMC members and 14 WSC members will receive their 10-year long service awards. And for the first time, 378 CCMC members will receive their 15-year long service awards. On behalf of the PA, I would like to congratulate all the recipients and to convey my deep appreciation to them for their service and commitment to the community.

The appointment of the CCMC was Singapore's first attempt to get our grassroot leaders organised to look after their own interest and welfare. We have identified our grassroot leaders and have given them the responsibility of running and managing their own community centres. We have done so because they were more in touch with the people and would know better the requirements and aspirations of the people. The first 16 CCMCs and their 155 members were appointed on 2 October 1964.

It is gratifying to note that 43, or 28 per cent of the 155 pioneer members of these CCMCs are still serving today and they will have completed 20 years' service in October 1984. Twenty years is a long time for community

service and I am pleased to announce that in appreciation of their long devotion and contribution, the PA will award them gold medals in 1984. These leaders have gone through thick and thin with us and deserve to be awarded.

I am also happy to announce the winners of the Community Centre (CC) of the Year Award and Community Centre Merit Awards for this year. The Marine Parade CC has won the CC of the Year Award.

The success of the Marine Parade CC is the result of the collective endeavours of its Management Committee and staff. For the last two successive years, it won the CC of the Year Merit Award. The Centre continued to provide a wide range of cultural, sports and continuing education classes for the residents. The Centre's Computer Hobby Club was very active and effective in the promotion of computer activities. Apart from the regular computer courses, the Club also conducted monthly workshops and held film shows.

The Radio Control Modeller's Club, set up in 1980, was another achievement of the Centre. Its members participated in the Club's monthly races as well as local and international competitions. In 1982, the Club hosted the First Far East Championship Race which attracted participants from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Macau and Malaysia.

The Marine Parade CC is bestowed the CC of the Year Award, 1983 for its success as a focal point of community activities.

The winners of the CC Merit Awards are Kampong Chai Chee CC, Pasir Panjang CC and Kim Seng CC. They are among the most active CCs and have each excelled in certain areas of activities. Kampong Chai Chee CC is the only CC conducting courses for computer programmers. It is also noted for

organising a wide range of activities to promote good neighbourliness among the residents. Pasir Panjang CC has made significant contribution to the promotion of cultural activities and bodybuilding. Kim Seng CC is noted for its success in catering to the needs of children, senior citizens and many others. I congratulate the CCMCs, WSCs, Youth Executive Committees and the staff of the CCs for their excellent performance.

Whampoa CC also deserves special mention. It was the winner of the CC of the Year Award for the last three successive years and hence the first CC to retain permanently the CC of the Year Challenge Trophy. Yet it did not rest on its laurels and continued to work hard to attain greater achievement. Unfortunately, it lost out to the Marine Parade CC by a very marginal score for this year's top honours. I must commend the Whampoa CC for its dedication and sustained efforts in serving the residents.

We are living in a dynamic world that is changing at an accelerative pace. New needs and interests are emerging. The CCs should therefore respond to these changes. Singaporeans are becoming more prosperous and more sophisticated.

About 70 percent are living in HDB highrise buildings. PA and the community leaders should reach out to the majority of Singaporeans who are accustomed to highrise living and understand the problems faced by the young and the old. How can the CCs serve the HDB residents? How can they attract them and involve them in the CC activities. How to mobilise the young and old to participate in wholesome group activities? These are the problems facing the grassroot leaders of the CCs. I am sure, with drive and imagination, the community leaders will overcome whatever new challenges and difficulties they may face, just as they have done so successfully in the past.

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