



## **Nomination for ICAAS Distinguished Service Award (IDSA) 2007**

We, the members whose names appear at the end of this nomination paper, hereby nominate **George Ong Eng Poh**, a life member and a past president of ICAAS, for the 2007 IDSA award.

In support of our nomination, we would like to highlight the numerous significant contributions made by George to ICAAS over a period of many years since the early 1990s. This list is by no means exhaustive.

George has provided long and continuous service to ICAAS including as an elected EXCO member (96 - 99, 02 - 03) and president (88 - 94). Over the years, he has made sustained contributions to the continued growth of ICAAS in terms of membership, activities, and prestige. His most important contributions are detailed below:

### **(1) STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ICAAS & IC**

George worked hard to nurture a working relationship and establish credibility with the top management at IC, especially with Rectors Sir Eric Ash and Lord Ron Oxburgh. The rectors, whenever they were in Singapore, spent time with ICAAS in Christmas caroling and dinner (Dec 91, Dec 92 and Dec 93).

The excellent rapport and trust led IC to hold a Convocation Ceremony at Jubilee Hall in Raffles Hotel, followed by a grand gala dinner at the Marina Mandarin Hotel in Nov 92. The event was graced by Minister Lee Yock Suan and participated by ex-Minister Lee Chiaw Meng.

Its success led to a subsequent one in Malaysia in 1999. It is especially significant that in 2007, the Convocation will once again be held in Singapore as part of IC's Centenary Celebration.

### **(2) SERVICE TO PUBLICISE AND RAISE THE IMAGE OF ICAAS**

George continued the tradition of issuing a quarterly (hardcopy) newsletter to maintain a regular communication channel with members. In an age that pre-dates the Internet, the production of the newsletter using then desktop publishing technology was hard work. Two special editions of the newsletter, in full colour and 4-page in length, were published in Mar and Nov 1992.

Each year, he organized an Orientation Dinner at the Raffles Room in the Tanglin Club for recent graduates and departing students able to embark on their studies at IC. This provided an excellent opportunity to undertake membership recruitment and publicize ICAAS to new students. Sponsorships were sought to defray the costs for the student attendees.

**(3) SERVICE TO ICAAS MEMBERS AND IMPROVE COHESION OF ICAAS**

Around May 1992, George introduced the concept of Life Membership into ICAAS, an important mechanism to reduce the overheads of collecting annual membership fees.

A new innovation in activities was the many movie evenings at the Shaw Cinema that was facilitated by Mark Shaw. Activities like talks by IC faculty (e.g., Sir Eric Ash, Prof. Patrick Dowling, and Prof. Sir Hugh Ford) and alumni members (e.g., Yip Seck Hong) as well as BBQ with ICSS and TKGS (ala SDU) were also organized.

After stepping down from his multiple-year presidency, George has continued to render outstanding services to ICAAS, be it as an emcee at the IT lecture series at library@orchard, booking Tanglin Club as a venue for ICAAS activities, or organizing pub nites as part of Imperial Connection.

**Nomination submitted by the following on 29 March 2007.**