

ICAAS Distinguished Service Award --- Nomination for Dr Lee Hing Yan

Dr Lee Hing Yan has a long and outstanding record at ICAAS of over 25 years. He was hon. sec. (1986-1987), exco member (2000-2003), vice president (2003-2005), and president (2005-2009). More importantly, he often contributed his service above and beyond what was expected of him.

Of Dr Lee's many contributions to ICAAS, four stood out far above the rest. The first was the many long series of public lectures envisioned and (a large fraction) personally organized by him. It was remarkable that from 2001 (we launched our first series of public lectures) to 2007 (the College celebrated our centenary), we completed 100 public lectures. These public lectures raised ICAAS intellectual profile, benefited many ICAAS members and several thousands of members of the public.

The second was the ICAAS Newsletter suggested by Dr K. K. Phua and taken up by Dr Lee. He personally compiled all 37 issues of the newsletters, from the launch of the first newsletter in January 2006 to the last issue under his presidency in October 2009. These newsletters vividly captured the activities of ICAAS and preserved for past and future ICAAS members a colourful memory of our interactions. Incidentally, Dr Lee also contributed nearly all contents of the "news" section of ICAAS website, where he personally collected some 80 interesting news articles on IC alumni in Singapore.

The third was the significant rise in ICAAS life membership under Dr Lee's watch as ICAAS president. When he took over the presidency in 2005, ICAAS had close to 100 life members. By the time he stepped down in 2009, ICAAS had over 140 life members. This growth in life members was the largest observed in absolute terms under any past ICAAS presidents.

The fourth was the 25th anniversary celebration of ICAAS at the Regent Hotel and the 30th anniversary of ICAAS-cum-the centenary of Imperial gala dinner at the Noble House (and several major events associated with these celebrations). The ICAAS 25th anniversary event was graced by Minister Teo Chee Hean. Dr. Lee Hing Yan (then ICAAS VP) was the main organizer of the event. The ICAAS 30th anniversary-cum-Imperial's centenary event was graced by President S. R. Nathan. Dr. Lee Hing Yan (then ICAAS President) took overall charge of this and associated events (gala dinner, magazine, 1-day symposium, etc). These were among the largest ICAAS formal functions organized to date. Notably, the ICAAS 25th anniversary event was the function that saw the launch of the ICAAS Distinguished Service Award.

In summary, Dr Lee Hing Yan's service to ICAAS is outstanding and is sustained over many years. We feel that he has met every yardstick of distinction for the IDSA. In fact, we believe he has set a new benchmark for the IDSA. It is fitting that ICAAS recognizes Dr Lee's significant contributions to ICAAS with the IDSA.

This nomination is submitted by
Professor Wong Limsoon (President of ICAAS 2002-2005 & Recipient of IDSA 2006).

This nomination is supported by
Professor K. K. Phua (Founding President of ICAAS, Inaugural recipient of IDSA),
Mr George Ong (President of ICAAS 1988-1994 & Recipient of IDSA 2007) and
Mr Raymond Kwok (President of ICAAS 1996-2002 & Recipient of IDSA 2005).

Record of major lecture series organized by Dr Lee Hing Yan

In the year 2000, Dr Lee mooted the idea of collaborating with the National Library Board (NLB) to mount two series of public lectures, one focus on life sciences and one on information technology. These were timely ideas given the significant government and public interest and were warmly received by the NLB. Furthermore, Dr Lee personally took up the challenge of putting together the series on information technology and secured the sponsorship of DSTA for the first six talks of the series. Remarkably, the first talk---which was on "search engines"---was attended by a large contingent of professional librarians from all over Southeast Asia! All in all, this series ran continuous for three years and benefited over 2000 attendees.

In the year 2001, Dr Lee Hing Yan suggested and organized the ICAAS-MBA Masterclass. The special guest of the dinner-cum-lecture event was Prof. Sue Birley from IC who delivered a lecture on entrepreneurship. He also secured the sponsorships of Prentice-Hall and World Scientific Publishing Company for the event. More importantly, this event became the prototype of a long series of dinner-cum-lectures that were a key component of ICAAS's social calendar with IC MBA students for many years.

In the year 2006, Dr Lee Hing Yan started a new lecture series on Grid Computing with the theme "Grid is Good: Unleashing Grid Computing to Power Business, Education and Life" as a collaboration of ICAAS, NLB, and the National Grid Office. It was launched on 7 Feb 2006 by Rear-Admiral (Ret.) Richard Lim, Chairman of the National Grid Steering Committee and Chief Executive of the Defence Science & Technology Agency. The first lecture was on "Grid Computing – New Frontiers" by Dr. Ruediger Berlich from the Institute for Scientific Computing, Germany. The lectures are held on a monthly basis and organised by Dr. Lee Hing Yan. The series ran for almost 2 years.

ICAAS-UIAAS Innovation Symposium (26 Aug 2006). The first ICAAS-UIAAS (University of Illinois Alumni Association of Singapore) Innovation Symposium was held at NLB and attracted more than 55 people. The event aimed to share made-in-Singapore innovations and entrepreneurship. There were seven lectures, with the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Francis Yeoh, then COO (and now CEO) of the National Research Foundation. NLB sponsored the tea refreshments. The event was organised by Dr. Lee Hing Yan.

Joint Technology Innovation Symposium (21 Apr 2007). The second ICAAS-UIAAS (University of Illinois Alumni Association of Singapore) Innovation Symposium was held at NLB and attracted more than 50 people. The event aimed to share made-in-Singapore innovations and entrepreneurship. There were eight lectures, with the opening address delivered by Dr. Tan Geok Leng (CTO, Infocomm Development Authority). The IC alumni speakers were Assoc. Professor Seah Hock Soon (Chair, School of Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University) and Chen Hung (Vice Chairman, 3HPArchitects). The event was organized by Dr Lee Hing Yan.