A WARM WELCOME TO
four new members of
Tan Kah Kee Postgraduate Scholarship Alumni

Four recipients were selected out of the 131 applicants of the 2008 Tan Kah Kee Postgraduate Scholarship. The Presentation Ceremony will be held on 2 August 2008 at the National Library Board. A heritage trail will be organised exclusively for scholarship alumni members. The tour will cover some significant sites relating to Singapore’s great philanthropists Mr Tan Kah Kee and Mr Lee Kong Chian. In viewing these sites, some insights of their personality would be re-told.

Like other members of our scholarship alumni, the four recipients this year have played significant roles in social and community services in addition to excelling in their field of studies. Let’s welcome them to the Alumni Network as they undertake the following degrees:

Daphnée Lee Hui Lin
PhD (Research) Sociology
Australian National University

Alvin Tan Sheng Hui
Master In Public Policy (MPP)
Harvard University,
Kennedy School of Government, USA

Farhan Ali
PhD in Biology
Harvard University, USA

Ang Chong Leong
Master of Arts
Tzu Chi University, Taiwan

“Although the Tan Kah Kee foundation does not compel its scholars to serve a bond, the fact that scholars are selected based primarily on their track record of community service is testament to the importance the foundation places on this particular trait. I am sure the selection process is rigorous enough to only select scholars that possess this passion and commitment to community service. In so doing, the foundation ensures that Mr Tan Kah Kee’s spirit and dedication to community service is upheld by its scholars.”

-------- Alvin Tan

“Approbation in the form of selection by the scholarship panel is the best form of encouragement to the candidates in recognition of their tireless efforts towards excellence in their relevant fields of pursuits. The Tan Kah Kee Postgraduate Scholarship is the embodiment of how the pioneers of the past (Mr Tan Kah Kee), the leaders of the present (The Tan Kah Kee Foundation) and future potential (the candidates) work for the common aspiration towards excellence through education.”

-------- Daphnée Lee

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- Four recipients of 2008 Tan Kah Kee Postgraduate Scholarship
- 2008 recipients share their community service experiences
- Update from past recipients
- Tan Kah Kee Foundation’s ongoing and upcoming events
People unwittingly have this inexplicable fear of the unknown. In Singapore, we live in a highly competitive society where individuals work together for the betterment of the country and society, and at the same time, we compete against each other for the best positions in economy and society. This is the kind of life I am accustomed to; a life surrounded by able bodied individuals who compete with each other in the economic arena, and after work, we share the fruits of our labor in environments that offers one the best material comforts that our assets can afford. Yet there is constantly this nagging feeling when I walk past the Special Needs Activity Center*: what is life like for these people? I have seen the center members go for their regular walks, study in their classrooms, and frankly, I know not much about their lives apart from the fact that they are intellectually challenged, and very different from the cooperating-competing cycle that I am so accustomed to in my life.

My first trip to offer my services to this center was honestly unnerving. I did not know what to expect, and what I am getting myself into. But I also know that to turn my back away due to the fear of the unknown will only be my loss. I do not wish for my life to be revolved around work and consumer pleasures alone. I wish for a life where every action contributes to some meaningful benefit: benefit not only in my own life, but to others that I have come into contact with. I am glad I have not regretted my first attempt to get in touch with the center members. Not everything I witnessed is rosy of course, but what I do see is a microosm of what society is in its purest essence, not very different from the many different types of characters in our society that makes this world interesting and challenging at the same time.

I truly applaud the full-time facilitators who have selected to dedicate their lives to the mission of grooming and caring for the center members. I usually drop by in the morning, sometimes every week, sometimes fortnightly, sometimes just once a month, depending on the intensity of my research commitments for my Ph.D. program, and already, I feel like my energy is pretty spent in just one session in the morning. The facilitators have to go on their duties on a daily basis, tirelessly investing their patience, compassion, laughter and love to the center members, who are human beings who are ever so deserving to be loved, but are also, like human beings, never perfect angels. While in my full time profession as a lecturer, I have also experienced the same drama from my daily interactions with students, at the Special Needs Activity Center, these experiences are amplified manifold. The center members may be categorized under intellectually challenged due to their inability to contribute as competitively as the more fortunate individuals, like the facilitators and the volunteers for example, but the richness of the emotions that they express make it a joy and a challenge to manage.

My routine at the center commences with their daily walks, the time where volunteers get the time to mingle with the center members, hold their hands and encourage them to complete their exercise routine despite whether it’s upslope or downslope terrains, stairs, or flat ground where we sometimes race down the path. This is also the time when we get to do small talk that allows the center members to learn pro-social behavior. Much patience is required when for instance, Edward hits the downslope terrain, one must be compassionate in understanding his fears and patient in encouraging him to overcome his fears while holding his hand.

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DAPHNÉE LEE:
Patience, kindness, compassion, love: my volunteering experience

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The laughter I share with the facilitators when Sam calls me "fat" makes me realize that there is greater motivation when tasks are done with joy. Sam would do his best in making sure that he walks ahead of me because I am "fat", while making sure that I do not trail too much behind. Love, of course makes challenging tasks appear less insurmountable. Lena's grouchy disposition melts away when you give her hugs and kisses, and she'd brighten up with the most beautiful smile and continue her walk with a spurt of resolve. Sandra is purely delighted to simply hear you call her name. Her eyes would sparkle and she would smile with such elation because you showed her she mattered enough for you to remember her. There is of course Elise, my regular partner and friend for the walks, who always wanted to do the walks with me, and would refuse to walk in front just so that I do not get to socialize with her friends and competitors (for my attention), Lena and Alice, who are walking ahead. The common joy we share walking together, conquering the terrains in the makes me realize that the daily challenges in life are less daunting when approached with patience, compassion, laughter and love.

The center needs to ensure that the center members are not just physically fit, but also prepared with basic life-skills like simple counting and writing the alphabets to their names. I was initially tasked to give one-to-one tuition to center members, ensuring each of them completes a part of their homework requirements set by their facilitators. As time passes, I was elated to be given the opportunity as teaching assistant in the classroom. Norma, a facilitator who had demonstrated great love, compassion and patience to everyone that she has met, had kindly asked me to join her in the classroom. Through the classroom environment, I was able to identify the individual education needs of the students and set writing tasks for them to fulfill. To ensure that students focus on tasks that targets specific areas that can develop their intellectual development, I bought assessment books on my own initiative for specific individuals, so that they are focus their practice in those areas. For instance, Alvin is fantastic in his math, so much so that it is time consuming to constantly set mathematical problems for him. The facilitator's time can be better invested in guiding him to proper methods of problem-solving through the help of the assessment book. It is a joy to see his quiet elation when he is able to solve sum after sum while receiving praises of efficacy while I was guiding him through the book. In contrast to Alvin's quiet perseverance, Zahir's gregarious nature makes him a joy to be with, but also a challenge in ensuring that he doesn't take "shortcuts" in his writing. On one occasion where I noticed he was writing "Z"s from dotted lines created by the facilitator, I decided to buy him an assessment book with dotted lines of various sorts for practice. He was overjoyed and I can feel his glow of pride when he finished joining all the lines in the assessment book with such perseverance. I smiled when he proudly shows off his work to his facilitators. Zahir's "Z"s no longer resemble "2"s. Ford has a shy disposition; it is easy for him to be overlooked. While coaching Alvin one day, I noticed that Ford completes his tasks very quickly, and would then sit and await the next task. Hence I selected an assessment book with plenty of writing tasks to keep him occupied. Within the classroom environment, I learnt patience when Zahir and Sam will both be asking you to set new questions, or mark their assessments while I am coaching Wei Long. I learnt compassion and do not feel frustrated when a boy (I don't know his name) quietly sits there watching me teach Zahir addition. Giving him a little recognition by tasking him to pass the eraser when Zahir needs to make corrections creates a twinkle in his eyes. Sitting by Betty and listening to her spinning yarns motivates her to complete her writing and allows the both of us to imagine a beautiful, fulfilling life ahead for her. Laughter and lots of praises motivates almost everyone to go that extra mile and creates dynamism within the classroom. With love, hugs and kisses, Sandra and Lena find writing their names less daunting.

For Christmas, my sister and I decided to buy curry puffs for everyone at the center. We were silly to decide on curry puffs, forgetting that not everyone can take spicy food even in Singapore. The way the smiling Elise methodically insisted on finishing her curry puff in spite of her continuous fanning of her mouth and gesturing that it's still delicious nevertheless made me feel both guilty and appreciated. During the time when I was sitting there, smiling, images of Timothy and his hives, Alice's excitement in pointing out where my good friend Lena is quietly located, George's satisfaction that his pretense of aggression draws a response of acknowledgement (I called his name) instead of fear from me, Daniel's bashfulness as he smiles at me while scratching his head and many more. I am glad I had not faltered in venturing into the unknown. I found patience, compassion, laughter, and love.

*Note: Pseudonyms are applied to the name of the voluntary welfare organization and their center members. This article exclusively bears the personal opinions of the writer and does not represent the operating philosophy and/or the opinion of the voluntary welfare organization.*
Among the many social issues that I have had the privilege of working on, the issue of Public Assistance Allowance (PAA) stood out for its immediacy in the current economic climate. Sometime in February last year, I assisted MP Dr. Lily Neo in crafting her parliamentary speeches to lobby for the increase in PAA from $260 per month – a mere subsistence level at today’s prices. We substantiated the appeal through both empirical and anecdotal evidence obtained from our regular Meet the People Sessions, and door-to-door visits by our grassroots community.

With the help of community leaders at the Kim-Seng Kreta Ayer Constituency, my friends and I helped organise door-to-door visits every week after work for about two months to speak with PAA recipients, to understand their living conditions, and the adequacy of the PAA in sustaining their quality of living. A case that stood out was an elderly man in his late 70s with chronic asthma, who ran up an almost monthly electricity bill of over $80 as he had to constantly rely on an electric breathing apparatus (donated by a hospital). Dr. Neo was able to subsequently top-up this man’s financial requirements through ComCare.

With our research, I was able to help refine Dr. Neo’s speech, and she finally presented it in Parliament. After many rounds of debate and public discussion, the PAA allowance was finally raised to the current level of $330 per month for elderly recipients.

Our efforts to ensure that the needs of these citizens did not end there. My friends and I organised a goodie-bag distribution event in early 2008 which involved students and young working adults like myself. It offered the opportunity not just to present these material goods to the recipients, but also for young, educated, but often removed young people to understand the needs of others beyond their social and economic class. These events helped sparked greater interest in the younger generation in community work, and highlighted the practical contributions they can make in the lives of others less fortunate than themselves.

PAA recipients in Kim-Seng Kreta Ayer Constituency stood out because most of them are single and independent. Unlike those in aged homes, these PAA recipients do not have the luxury of 24-hour care. Some have even passed away without anyone knowing – with the stench coming from their one-room rental flats as the only indication to neighbours. I recall once when we tried knocking on the door of one PAA recipient, and his neighbour told us that he had not come out for days – and food left by volunteers outside was untouched. I called the police and we found out that the elderly man had passed on two days earlier.

While there are many who exploit the welfare system, which PAA essentially is, my experience is that most PAA recipients are strong, fiercely independent people. I remember one sprightly old man who had one leg amputated above the knee, still in high spirits, telling me how he was managing on the allowance. I had the utmost respect and admiration for him.

We are in the best position, with our relative wealth, knowledge, world-class education, global opportunities to help our fellow Singaporeans who may be less fortunate than ourselves. We can help in a variety of ways – through influencing the change in public policy, direct involvement, offering our time and talents, or just by taking time to hear them out. But I strongly believe that we have a basic responsibility to them, and that we are God’s Helping Hands to those in need.

---------alvin.s.tan@gmail.com
FArHAN ALI
– developing thinking youth leaders:
Malay/Muslim issues in Singapore and international scientific literacy amongst youths

Since 2005, I have contributed to the Malay/Muslim community in Singapore as a volunteer with the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), an independent self-help group of the community. The Malay/Muslim community faces a number of unique challenges and problems. While, for example, the majority of Chinese in Singapore are highly-educated and economically well-off, many Malay/Muslims still lag behind in educational attainments. Only about 5% of each cohort of Malays makes it to university compared to over 20% or more for the other communities.

Our work in Young AMP (the youth wing of AMP) and RIMA (the research subsidiary of AMP) takes a forward-looking approach in developing the community’s capacity for thought leadership and intellectual output. We aim to expose emerging young professionals in universities to critical issues that affect the community. In Young AMP, I have helped to craft and execute programs such as the Reading Circles series, the Muslim Youth Seminar, as well as the Young AMP book project. In RIMA, I have been involved in roundtables, seminars, and various reports to non-governmental organizations.

We offer a holistic approach that specifically addresses the unique challenges of the Malay/Muslim community in developing educational, intellectual, and thought capacities, which is a more effective form of community service compared to one-off overseas projects, for example. The Malay/Muslim community needs to make the best leaders and thinkers out of the privileged few that we have, in the hope that they will provide the critical mass to further develop the community.

I was also the Associate Editor (2005-2006) and then Research Editor (2006-2008) of the international student journal, the Journal of Young Investigators (JYI). JYI aims to promote science literacy and writing, particularly among undergraduates. In 2006, we celebrated our 10-year anniversary.

I am happy to say that as the Research Editor leading my department of social science enthusiasts, we have successfully reached out to undergraduates from all over the world. I managed to work with student authors from developing countries (e.g., India, Argentina, etc.) as well as from Singapore, in order to promote scientific writing. Our group of international student editors also published a commentary in Science, a distinguished scientific journal, on the scientific advocacy that JYI does and how it supports undergraduate education and research.

For my efforts, I was awarded Staff of the Month Awards in 2006 and 2008. I also received the National Youth Council Overseas Youth-Programme Grant to assist my participation in a JYI exhibition in Boston, USA in 2008. I believe the endeavour to foster science awareness amongst youths is in line with the national strategy to promote scientific knowledge as a pillar of our economy and society. This effort is particularly important as key scientific and ethical issues (global warming, stem cell research, etc.) increasingly permeate society. Currently, there is little done beyond the formal education curriculum to promote such issues among the youths, so I believe there is a gap that needs to be filled. I am particularly passionate about science advocacy and literacy amongst Malay/Muslim youths and hope that my further education will give me the knowledge, tools and contacts to do so.

----- farnali@yahoo.com.sg

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Meeting exhibition in Feb 2008 at Boston, USA, where Journal of Young Investigators (JYI) set up a booth. Photo Credit: Colellaphoto.com for AAAS.

Malay/Muslim undergraduate students and youths attending a Reading Circles session in Jul 2008. Photo Credit: Young AMP.
这两年我在台湾慈济大学念书，在空余时间也在花莲慈济医院的心莲病房当志工。心莲病房是安宁疗护病房(hospice)，志工在新加坡称为义工。安宁疗护病房是为无法治愈的末期病人，通过解除疼痛及其他不适的症状，提供整体性的照顾，希望提升病人及家属的生活品质。

很多人知道我在安宁病房当志工，想了解我在病房帮助了病人什么，想知道我经过了这些日子，看待死亡的态度有什么改变。我想：其实在安宁病房里，病人都是我们的老师，他们在教导我们如何面对死亡、面对世界。在健康人的世界里，我们总觉得世界上的一切都在我们的掌控之中，有时候甚至把一切当成是理所当然的。在病房里无论是病情变好变坏，无论伤心嚎啕大哭、默默无言面对，病人都一定要面对它；而且在相当程度上我们对身体渐渐的衰败是无可奈何的。所以这时候，世界上一切鼓励的话，积极的话，正面的话仿佛都是废话。

有一次病房举行吃西瓜比赛，美其名是比赛，参赛者却只有四个，而且两个坐轮椅、一个躺在病床上被推出来、只有一个是走出来坐在椅子上。比赛没有胜负，比赛只是大家吃西瓜的借口，病人都很开心的吃了西瓜。在比赛后，有一个志工重复地告诉病人，西瓜吸收了大地万物的精华，是很有补益的。我心里面在想：这句话听在一个即将走向死亡的病人耳里，是一种怎样的感受。如果有什么东西可以补的话，也不需要来这里了。我的指导老师告诉我们，多做事，少说话是对的。

所以在病房的时候，我们就陪病人聊天，帮护士做东西，有时候甚至帮去世的病人助念（助念是在人死去的十二小时在旁边念佛号，这是佛教净土宗的方式）。在第二年的时候，我的指导老师发展对于病人的（灵性）柔适照顾，我们也开始用绘画、颂钵(singing bowl)、催眠等方式在安宁病房进行陪伴。

至于我对于死亡的看法？说不害怕死亡是句谎话，我们知道我们只要活过一天，我们就更接近死亡一天。因此我们更应该积极趁我们还健康活着的时候，去做我们想做的事情。

-------- clang13@gmail.com

Drawing as a healing therapy

Playing singing bowl with patient’s family member
HIDAYAH AMIN (recipient, 2006): community service in the USA and writing about family history

Amid a hectic graduate school schedule, I made time to get acquainted to America the best way I know how - through community service. My stint in post-tsunami Aceh on a medical relief mission rekindled my passion in helping the sick and that encouraged me to volunteer weekly at St Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. I was the back-up support for various departments and performed essential non-clinically related services for patients in St Luke’s Outpatient Dialysis Center.

My other community service activities included Lehigh University’s DC SERVE where I worked in various soup kitchens and homeless shelters in Washington DC, and WinterSERVE where our team worked with Habitat for Humanity to build houses for Hurricane Katrina survivors in Louisiana. I also initiated the ‘Young Lakota Film-maker Project’ where I taught film-making to Native American children in a South Dakota Sioux Indian Reservation. Working alongside Americans during such trips offered me insights into the American society’s woes and plight which the media sometimes neglects.

I was fortunate to intern pro-bono at the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City for 6 months after my graduation. I remember visiting the UN base camp in Aceh only to marvel at UN’s humanitarian involvement. Interning at the UN further enhances my understanding of the UN and its overall purpose as the centre of harmonizing the actions of nations in maintaining international peace and security.

Being involved in organizing the DPI NGO Annual Conference on Climate Change had enabled me to network with various NGO representatives, prominent UN officials, representatives of UN member states as well as eminent academics. I was amazed at how strong and dedicated the NGOs were in advocating important issues such as health, the environment and education. As an intern, I was also involved in the weekly briefings for NGO representatives about issues ranging from the eradication of poverty to eliminating stigma on HIV-positive patients.

What I value most about my American experience is the exchange of ideas and the engagement of minds. A social psychologist once said that friendly and sustained contacts erode prejudice. The way to achieve understanding is to build bridges of friendship between societies and cultures. And I am indeed privileged to be able to build many wonderful bridges during my stay in the United States of America.

I have recently submitted my book ‘Gedung Kuning, Memories of a Childhood Home’ for review. The collection of 29 short stories revolved around my childhood home (Gedung Kuning or the Yellow Mansion) which was acquired by the Singapore government in August 1999 under the Land Acquisition Act. What used to be our family home from 1912 is now preserved as a historic building under the Malay Heritage Centre.

Through the short stories, readers get a historical narrative detailing the lives of people living in Gedung Kuning and the Malays of Singapore from 1850 to 1999. I hope the book will get published so as to facilitate and enrich the sharing of our cultural and intellectual heritages.

------------- hidayah.amin@gmail.com

Update from past recipients

Aspiring to be as great as American presidents?
**TANG TEE KOON’S Achievement (recipient, 2006): music outreach in London**

I was awarded the Tan Kah Kee Postgraduate scholarship in 2006 to pursue Masters of Music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, U.K. The scholarship was a great platform for me to explore performing opportunities in Europe. During that year, I travelled to perform in Switzerland at the Seiji Ozawa International Music Academy and the Lenk Summer Academy.

I was also involved in various music education and outreach projects -- teaching at various primary schools in London, leading music workshops, and also presenting educational concerts with the London Chamber Orchestra, City of London Chamber Orchestra and the Guildhall School of Music.

Since settling in London from 2005, I have participated in the Prussia Cove International Musician’s Seminar (U.K.), Chipping Campden Music Festival (U.K.), Singapore Arts Festival (2008) and given frequent concert recitals in London.

As a recognition, I was awarded the Myra Hess Award (presented by the Musicians’ Benevolent Fund, U.K.) in 2007 and the Martin Musical Scholarship (presented by Philharmonia Orchestra, U.K.).

I am tremendously grateful for the support given to me by the Tan Kah Kee Foundation. The postgraduate scholarship provided me the opportunity to be in Europe, where I now continue to develop and grow as an international artist.

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**TANIA OH (recipient, 2004): researching vaccines for tropical disease**

As part of my PhD project, I recently chose to work on a tropical disease project focusing on schistosomiasis.

After malaria, schistosomiasis is the most prevalent tropical disease in the world. Schistosomiasis affects developing regions such as Africa, Asia, Middle East and South America. The disease is endemic in 74 tropical developing countries, and potentially affects some 600 million people. Currently, 200 million people are infected, 120 millions show symptoms, and 20 millions have severe illness. Schistosomiasis continues to spread to new geographic areas despite substantial progress in control and decreased morbidity and mortality. This has been attributed to the environmental changes due to water supplies (for example, building of dams) and to the movement of infected populations. Extreme poverty, and lack of knowledge regarding the health risks as well as lack of public–health funding are also predisposing factors for the spread of infection. Chemotherapy remains the most important course of intervention alongside anthelmintic drugs. However, reinfection decreases the efficacy of such chemical treatment and the antigenic vaccines developed so far are not sufficient to control the infection rates. A current drug, Praziquantel is effectively used against all forms of schistosomes. However, drug resistance to certain strains of schistosomes is starting to emerge.

Without going into too much biological details; I have been looking into understanding the different life stages of the pathogen and looking at the entire genomes of two different strains of these pathogenic worms. By analyzing the genes and picking out genes which may be the source of communication between the host and parasitic cells, I now have a list of potential vaccine candidates. A couple of these candidates have been verified by other groups working on these disease and although it may be years before new vaccines are produced, I hope that this work may play a small part in their production. This work will be formally written up and published sometime in 2009.

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Solo with Singapore Festival Orchestra @ Esplanade Concert Hall, Jun 08

Solo with Singapore Festival Orchestra @ Esplanade Concert Hall, Jun 08
As a member of Tan Kah Kee Scholarship Alumni, it is my lifelong dream to spread the word about Mr Tan Kah Kee and his spirit of learning and sharing with others and how he has groomed his future son-in-law Mr Lee Kong Chian.

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Mr Tan Kah Kee and Mr Lee Kong Chian naturally come to the mind. Tan was impressed with Lee's grasp of the English Language, and at the same time he had a vision to expand his rubber business overseas. Thus in 1917, the young Lee Kong Chian was promoted as a manager of the Tan Kah Kee Rubber Company. The older man not only tutored the younger in business skills, but also gave his daughter Ai Lay's hand in marriage to him in 1920.

Lee Kong Chian became the Vice-Chancellor of the then University of Singapore and donated S$1 million for the development of a medical college on the college's grounds. Other institutions received financial support from the Lee Foundation, including the National University of Singapore. Lee Kong Chian's work and generous contributions to education and society were recognised, and duly conferred with an honorary degree in law by the University of Malaya in 1958.

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spreading awareness of Tan Kah Kee’s history and legacy

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MYKNG@ntu.edu.sg

Eddie and his family

EDDIE NG (recipient, 1988 & 1989):
rich family life as mentor, parent and son

It has been thirteen years since I did a postgraduate diploma in Teaching in Higher Education but it seems that I never ever can graduate formally from NTU! I am a faculty in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, as well as being the Resident Counselor of Hall 6 and then the Senior Hall Fellow of Hall 5, a post I still hold now. I have been married for 16 years with 4 energetic sons. On Sundays, I bring whole family out of campus to visit my dad and spend some ‘makan’ time together with him. I am very fortunate to have my dad who not only treasures me but is also proud of me until today! I enjoy gardening and writing books. My URL is http://www.ntu.edu.sg/home/mykng. Let’s keep in touch and be positive always, folks!

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To preserve and commemorate the legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian, National Library Board (NLB) and Tan Kah Kee Foundation (TKKF) are jointly presenting a series of activities.

**Exhibition: Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian**

The Exhibition was officially launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 18 July 08. The exhibition will last till end of December 08. View the online version of the exhibition: http://www.thelegacy.nl.sg

**International Conference: Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian: Their Significance in the making of Modern Singapore and Malaysia (28 - 29 Nov 08)**

In conjunction with the exhibition, a one and a half day conference will be organized on 28 and 29 November 2008 to create a platform for knowledge exchange and discussion. The conference hopes to attract 200 local and international participants. Prof Su Guaning, President of Nanyang Technological University, will be the keynote speaker of the conference.

The conference includes four main themes:

- Entrepreneurship and the Ethnic Chinese
- A Comparison of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian
- A Question of Identity: Culture and Politics
- Education and the Ethnic Chinese
OPENING OF THE
PIONEERS’ MEMORIAL HALL
at Ee Hoe Hean Building (9 Nov 08)

The Ee Hoe Hean Club has been the location of some important events in Singapore’s history. During World War II, under the leadership of Mr Tan Kah Kee, Ee Hoe Hean was the headquarters of overseas Chinese anti-Japanese campaign. During 1950s, it was also at Ee Hoe Hean that Mr Tan Lark-Sye, the then chairman of the club, initiated setting up of the Nanyang University.

Due to the structural problems arising from the construction of the MRT Circle Line, the Ee Hoe Hean clubhouse had to be rebuilt. As part of the reconstruction of this historically-significant building and to promote the spirit of our pioneering leaders, the TKK Foundation has entered an agreement with the Ee Hoe Hean Club, whereby the Foundation will set up a Pioneers’ Memorial Hall at the 1st Level of the re-constructed building. The Pioneers’ Memorial Hall will feature Mr Tan Kah Kee, Mr Lee Kong Chian, Mr Tan Lark-Sye and other distinguished Chinese pioneers.

The opening of the Memorial Hall is scheduled on 9 November 2008 and Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Finance, will grace the Opening as Guest-Of-Honor.

PUBLIC SEMINAR: “Ee Hoe Hean and the Pioneers of Singapore and Malaya” (9 Nov 08)

In conjunction with the re-opening of the Ee Hoe Hean building and the launch of the Pioneers Memorial Hall, the TKK Foundation and Ee Hoe Hean Club will be jointly presenting a public seminar. Renown historian, Prof Wang Gungwu, will be chairing the session, which will feature three speakers: Prof Philip Leung Yuen-Sang (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Mr Onn Huann Jan (Southern College, Johor) and Dr Lee Chee Hiang (National University of Singapore). The event will be held at 2.30pm, 9 Nov 08 at Hwa Chong Institution (Secondary).
We hope you’ve been inspired and enlightened by the articles you’ve read in this newsletter. The diversity of fields represented and each individual’s passion for what they do very much reflects the spirit of Tan Kah Kee, which the Post-graduate scholarship has always aimed to encourage.

I’m sure the rest of you have equally interesting stories to share, through which we can all encourage each other to continue pursuing the paths that are the most meaningful to us and which also help to make our society better for all.

You can communicate news about your projects and ideas to the rest of the alumni via the Tan Kah Kee Scholarship Alumni Yahoogroup discussion list. Add your name to the list by simply sending a blank email to <TKK_Scholars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>. Looking forward to hearing about everyone’s varied interests and best wishes with all your endeavours.

--------- chua_ai_lin@cantab.net