



Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching

Deputy Director-General of Education
Executive Director of the Academy of Singapore Teachers

Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching is an exemplary educator with rich experiences both in teaching and in educational administration.

Mrs Chua fondly recalls her days in St. Margaret's at both the primary and secondary level, and credits the school for who she is today. Significantly, the teachers taught her that there is nothing too small or too big that one cannot solve, especially with God's help. She asserts, 'We are never at a place by chance. There is always a purpose for where God has put us.'

Mrs Chua started her teaching career at Dunman Secondary School in 1981. She taught Chemistry and Biology and was appointed Head of the Science Department in 1986. Subsequently she took on the position of Vice-Principal in the autonomous Tanjong Katong Girls' School in 1991, and after four years, was appointed principal of Zhonghua Secondary School. Here, her calling as an outstanding administrator rose to the fore as she led the school to its autonomous status in 1996.

In 1998, as the Deputy Director, Sciences Branch, Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD), at the Ministry of Education (MOE), she led the review and development of the curriculum in Mathematics, Science, Technical Education, Computer Education, Physical Education, Commerce Education and Home Economics. After five years with CPDD, she was appointed Principal of Shuqun Secondary School where she found much satisfaction implementing the policies she had a hand in crafting.

In 2007, after being involved in the conceptualization of the trail-blazing Northlight Secondary School which gives hope to students with difficulties handling the academic mainstream curriculum, Mrs Chua became its founding principal.

Next, Mrs Chua was posted to MOE as Director of CPDD where she worked till 2013 before becoming the Executive Director of the Academy of Singapore Teachers. Additionally, Mrs Chua is a strong champion of the National Olympiad teams, and formerly the Vice-President of the Singapore Girl Guides movement.

In recognition of her contributions, Mrs Chua received the Sng Yew Chong Medal for the Diploma in Education Programme in 1981 and the Ruth Wong Medal for the Diploma in Education Administration Programme in 1993. In recognition of her service to education, she was awarded the Public Administration Bronze Medal, Public Administration Silver Medal and the Public Administration Gold Medal in 2000, 2007 and 2020 respectively.

Mrs Chua remains modest about her achievements. On receiving the Public Administration Gold Medal in 2020, she said, "We are in public service and our main driver is the mission. The medal does not belong to an individual, it belongs to a team."

Serve God, the country and the community, she does!

Adapted from: <http://www.science.nus.edu.sg/science-alumni/alumni-awards/30-alumni/376-osa-2009-chua-lim-yen-ching>