



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **SINGAPORE BOOK COUNCIL ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Corporate Head Heralds Next Stage in Development**

SINGAPORE – The National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS) welcomes a new era in its 45 years of promoting Singapore as an international literary centre with the election of a new Executive Committee and new Chairperson, Ms Claire Chiang, Senior Vice President of Banyan Tree Holdings.

2 At the Annual General Meeting held on 31 July 2014, Ms Chiang, along with 11 other members of the NBDCS Executive Committee, was elected by the Book Council’s members comprising Singapore’s premier education, publishing, social, professional organisations and enterprises, and many notable individuals.

3 Outgoing Chairperson Ms Lim Li Kok presided over the election of new officers. Delivering her address at the onset of the meeting, Ms Lim highlighted the achievements of the past Executive Committee, including an improved and more capable Academy of Literary Arts and Publishing, which organises courses and workshops on reading, storytelling, writing and publishing as the Book Council’s training arm. She also underlined the contributions of her committee’s work in developing Singapore’s premiere festivals, multilingual programmes and awards for the literary arts.

4 “The Book Council is heading towards a new era with a new committee and a constitution that has been amended,” Ms Lim said. “It will be able to serve the literary and publishing community more effectively and achieve greater results in the future.” Ms Lim Li Kok will continue to continue to serve the Executive Committee as Immediate Past Chairperson.

5 Incoming Chairperson Ms Claire Chiang is Senior Vice President of Banyan Tree Holdings, and is co-founder of Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts. She is a passionate learner and a bestselling author, and holds an Arts and Social Sciences (Honours) degree and a Masters in Philosophy (Sociology). She was awarded “Woman of the Year” in 1999 and was one of the first women to join the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She is also a Council Member of the National Arts Council (NAC), and is currently the Chairperson of the Board of Advisors for the Asian Festival of Children’s Content (AFCC), organised by the Book Council.

6 “The Book Council has done excellent work in pioneering and establishing Singapore as the training hub for the literary arts and publishing. Its initiatives in programming for children and young people in Singapore and the region are impressive. It has raised the standard of literary arts through a variety of awards given to recognise excellence in writing. I look forward to further developing and



**NBDCS**  
The Book Council

## National Book Development Council of Singapore

Storytelling ● Reading ● Writing ● Publishing

consolidating the good work done by my predecessors,” said newly-elected Book Council Chairperson Ms Claire Chiang.

7 Along with Ms Chiang, the following individuals were elected to be the new members of the NBDCS Executive Committee for the next two years:

- Ms Lim Li Kok (Managing Director, Asiapac Books Pte Ltd), Immediate Past Chairperson
- Mr Chua Hong Koon (Publishing Director, World Scientific), Vice-Chairperson
- Mrs Kiang Koh Lai Lin (Consultant, National Archives of Singapore), Secretary
- Mr Leo Vincent (Director, Advanced Library Services. Pte Ltd), Treasurer
- Ms Jennifer Yin (Director, Language Division, National Heritage Board), Member
- Ms Evelyn Wong (Children’s Book Author/Editor), Member
- Ms Koh Juat Muay (COO, Global Alliance | The Rice Company, Pte Ltd), Member
- Mr David Seow (Children’s Book Author) Member
- Mr M Thuraimanikam (Vice President, Singapore Tamil Writers Association), Member
- Mr Edmund Wee (Publisher, Epigram Books Pte Ltd), Member
- Mr Gene Tan (Director, National Library), Member

8 The meeting also presented the amended constitution, which made way for additional forms of membership, as well as provided for setting up of an Advisory Board and appointment of a Patron. The amendments were approved by the Registrar of Societies in May this year.

9 It is the first time that NBDCS has welcomed a corporate head to helm the Council, having been established in 1969 to promote reading, publishing and library development in Singapore.

*(For more information on the new Executive Committee members, please refer to **ANNEX A**.  
For Ms Lim Li Kok’s speech, please refer to **ANNEX B**.)*

Please contact Mr Ramachandran for further enquiries:

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**The National Book Development Council of Singapore** (The Book Council) is a non-profit, charitable organisation committed to addressing the needs of publishers, book suppliers, and libraries, as well as the reading and writing communities. Founded in 1969, the Book Council has been setting the stage for a vibrant literary arts community in Singapore for the past four decades. For more information, visit: <http://bookcouncil.sg/>