



PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[21 AUGUST 2006] Mr Michael Koh Soon Hwa will be appointed as Chief Executive, National Heritage Board (NHB), with effect from 1 September 2006. Mr Koh will take over from Mrs Lim Siok Peng who has been Chief Executive of NHB since 6 July 2003. Mrs Lim relinquishes her duties on Thursday, 31 August 2006 and will retire from service after 29 years in the Public Service.

An architect by training, Mr Koh graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours). In 1992, he was awarded the URA overseas postgraduate scholarship to pursue a Masters of Design Studies degree at Harvard University, USA. His last appointment was as Director (Urban Planning & Design) in the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA). During his term at URA, Mr Koh was in charge of noteworthy projects such as the Planning & Urban Design Works for Downtown At Marina Bay, strategy and projects in “Vibrant Global City” plans, leading a team responsible for the Singapore Concept Plan 2001, and islandwide planning of Singapore.

Mr Koh also headed various other divisions in URA, ranging from Conservation & Urban Design, Physical Planning, and Urban Planning & Design. In addition, he was seconded

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to Temasek Holdings as Director (Special Projects), and had stints in Mapletree Holdings (a subsidiary of Temasek Holdings). He was in charge of all masterplanning and design works for Mapletree's three development clusters at Harbourfront, Alexandra and the Business Financial Centre.

Under Mrs Lim's leadership, NHB museum visitors breached the one million mark for the first time in history. Visitorship to our nearly 40 Museum Roundtable members also reached a new high with some 2.83 million visitors in 2005. More than 2 million Singaporeans and visitors were also engaged in Singapore's heritage through the Board's outreach efforts. Several blockbusters and major exhibitions were also organised by NHB museums during Mrs Lim's tenure. These included *Botero* by the Singapore Art Museum, *Journey of Faith: Art and History from the Vatican Collections* by the Asian Civilisations Museum (Empress Place) and *Love Me Love Me Not* by the Singapore History Museum (now National Museum of Singapore).

During her term, the Board also undertook several key projects. These included *Project M* (a nine month long pioneering initiative to attract youths), e-Museum card (an online membership programme), *Heritage Express* (museum on a train), *Singapore Family Tree* (a national family tree portal), *yesterday.sg* (Singapore's first heritage and museums blog), and *Singapore: The Encyclopedia* (Singapore's first comprehensive encyclopedia).

Mrs Lim was also instrumental in the repositioning of NHB's corporate and individual museum brands. NHB's brand identity has been refreshed in line with the Board's broader role of promoting heritage and museums on a national level and work is currently underway to re-position our museums as distinct institutions with their own unique value propositions.

The Board expresses our deep appreciation to Mrs Lim and wish her all the best in her retirement years.

About NHB

The NHB champions the promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It aims to make heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through forging collaborative partnerships and staging innovative programmes to engage different audiences. NHB is a statutory board formed on 1 August 1993 under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

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