

MICA Honours Three FOM Volunteers

By Anne H Perng



MICA Award recipients March 2012; Sian Appleyard fourth from left, with Susie Sadler beside Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, on his right

Congratulations to Sian Appleyard, Chiaki Inoue and Susie Sadler for receiving the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts' *Special Recognition Award* for their contribution to the arts in Singapore through their volunteer work with the Friends of the Museums (FOM). In an award ceremony, presided over by minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, they and other volunteers were honoured.

Sian Appleyard is on her second stint in Singapore and during both of them she has been involved with FOM, accumulating 11 years of voluntary service. She has worked tirelessly in her commitment to docent training and started guiding at the Singapore History Museum in 2001 (now the National Museum of Singapore) and the original Asian

Civilisations Museum (ACM) in 2002. Returning to Singapore in 2006 she resumed guiding and undertook various training team roles at the ACM. When the Peranakan Museum (TPM) opened in 2008 Sian put together the new docent training course and was Co-Head of the inaugural training as well as Museum Coordinator. For the past three years Sian has



Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and Sian Appleyard

supported all the training teams, behind the scenes, as overall Co-Head of Docent Training and has worked to improve all docent training processes and the quality of FOM docents. In her three years on the FOM council, Sian has developed guidelines which support all training team members and has continued to introduce current training methods and consistent standards across the museums that FOM supports, during and post-training.



Chiaki Inoue holding her award, photo by Megumi Oya

Chiaki Inoue also originally trained to guide at the Singapore History Museum (SHM) in 2002, and then to guide at the ACM since 2003, NMS since 2006 and TPM since 2008. In addition to being a docent, she has also participated in the Japanese Docent training programme as a lecturer on West Asia, Southeast Asia and Singapore. She has also served on the Japanese Docents (JD) committee with her work as JD Librarian in 2004, ACM Representative in 2005 and JD Coordinator in 2005-06. Chiaki continues to spread her knowledge beyond FOM through her articles on Singapore history in the members' publication of the Japanese Association, sparking more interest in the history and museums of Singapore.

Susie Sadler's current position as an ACM docent belies her depth of experience and knowledge within FOM. Many of her fellow FOM volunteers rely on her deep institutional knowledge of the history of FOM and of NMS where she has guided since 2000 when it was the Singapore History Museum and also at the ACM when it was



Dr Yaacob Ibrahim and Susie Sadler

located in Armenian Street. Susie guided at the Peranakan Museum for a short while before becoming an inaugural docent at the new premises of ACM in Empress Place. She furthered her commitment by training new docents: she was a Group Leader of training at SHM, TPM and ACM, followed by the position of Co-Head of ACM training in 2003-04. Her strengths are her depth of knowledge of Asian history and culture and wise counsel with regard to matters related to museums and docent training. She has helped to standardise many of the processes within the training programmes to ensure that FOM has high-quality docents.

FOM congratulates these three volunteers who so ably represent the spirit of service.

Photos of Susie Sadler, Sian Appleyard and MICA Award recipients, courtesy of the National Heritage Board