INSPIRATION FROM DR RUTH WONG’S LEGACY

By Library and Information Services Centre, Public, International and Alumni Relations and Strategic Planning and Academic Quality

The annual Ruth Wong Memorial Lecture series was set up in 1983 by the Wong Family to commemorate Dr Ruth Wong Hie King’s vision and rich legacy. The lectures represent the seminal ideas seeded by the late Dr Ruth Wong, the founding Director of the then Institute of Education, who had streamlined and improved Singapore’s teacher education curriculum. A book bringing together selected lectures was conceptualised in late 2014 in memory of Dr Ruth Wong and to celebrate SG50.

On 14 October 2015, Global Voices in Education: Ruth Wong Memorial Lectures, featuring contributions by 14 eminent figures in the field of education, was officially launched in National Institute of Education by Ms Ho Peng, Advisor to Ministry of Education, Deputy Chairperson of the NIE Council, and Chairperson of the NIE International Board of Directors.

In her welcome address, Ms Ho Peng congratulated the editors, NIE Director, Professor Tan Oon Seng, Dr Wong Hee Ong, Former Professor of Medicine, University of Malaya and Dr Seng Seok Hoon, Educational Consultant, NIE for “putting together this excellent volume”. She shared that “as an educationist, Dr Ruth Wong introduced several new perspectives on education” and “was ahead of her time”. “Dr Ruth Wong was an icon of mine,” Ms Ho Peng said. Wishing that educators, education leaders and policy makers will follow in Dr Ruth Wong’s footsteps and rise up to the call of the teaching profession, Ms Ho Peng said, “I sincerely hope that through this book the wonderful legacy of Dr Ruth Wong will continue to inspire us and future generations of educators”.

Jointly organised by LIBRIS, PIAR and SPAQ, the book launch event was attended by family and close friends of the late Dr Ruth Wong, including former and current NIE staff. Esteemed guests included Professor Freddy Boey, Deputy President and Provost, Nanyang Technological University who also addressed the attendees. Dr Chai Hon Chan, World Bank consultant and former World Bank Senior Evaluation Officer who delivered the 2000 Ruth Wong Memorial Lecture was also present and gave a short account of his association with Dr Ruth Wong.