# Speech on the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

Remarks by *Dr Kog Yue Choong*


Good afternoon Ambassador Ong and Friends of Giok Ling,

I want to thank IPS for organizing this tribute to Giok Ling and the speakers who have taken the trouble to talk about her and her works. Last but not least, I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to attend this tribute.

Giok Ling's career in Singapore started when she joined HDB in 1983. She carried out many nation wide surveys of interests to HDB with her colleagues. Not being in academia, she did not proceed to publish her works in international refereed journals.

Soon she realized, after joining IPS in 1989, the importance of publishing her works. Since then she has been working very hard to publish. At the time when she left us, her publications include 9 authored books and 8 edited books, 58 chapters in books, 48 papers in IR journals and more than 200 conference papers. Observing her at close range of how hard she worked, I realized that she was very determined; and very single minded to make her mark with her publications. Now I am sorting her literature collections at home. Because of the amount of literature she had read, I now have a big storage problem at home. This shows how serious she was about her works and her dedication to scholarship.

Therefore, I am not surprised to read some of the tributes by her peers. For example, the memoriam published in the July-August 2010 issue of the US journal Environment, acknowledged that "Dr. Ooi was an accomplished scholar who made significant contributions to the field of urban and environmental studies." Professor Frauke Kraas from Germany remarked on the web that "Giok-Ling was one of the most brilliant Asian geographers I know, vivid, experienced, responsible, innovative and wonderfully human!"

I think she has a fruitful and meaningful life. My family and I are very proud of her. If Giok Ling is up there watching, I am sure she will be pleased to know that we are gathered here to talk about her and her works.

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