Ms Chong Siak Ching

Ms Chong is the President & CEO of Ascendas Pte Ltd since January 2001. Ascendas is Asia’s leading provider of business space with presence in 10 countries across Asia. Ascendas also sponsored and manages Singapore’s first industrial and business space Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), listed in the Singapore Stock Exchange as Ascendas Reit (A-REIT). In January 2004, Ms Chong was appointed as one of Singapore’s three representatives to the APEC Business Advisory Council and is a Director on the Singapore Tourism Board and the Singapore-India Partnership Foundation.

Prior to joining Ascendas, Ms Chong was the Deputy CEO of Jurong Town Corporation, a statutory body of the Government of Singapore, which is Singapore’s largest industrial developer.

Ms Chong studied Estate Management at the National University of Singapore where, in 1981, she graduated with honours and was awarded a Gold Medal by the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers. In 1991, Ms Chong obtained a Masters in Business Administration from the same university. Ms Chong was registered as a licensed valuer in 1983 and has also completed the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard Business School in 1998. Ms Chong was conferred the National University of Singapore’s Distinguished Alumni Award by the Faculty of Architecture and Building Management in 1999.

Ms Chong is married with a 12-year old daughter.

Prof Lenore Lyons

Lenore Lyons is Director of the Australian Research Council Key Centre for Asia-Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPTRANS) and Associate Professor in the School of Social Sciences, Media, and Communications at the University of Wollongong, Australia. She holds a PhD in Gender Studies from Griffith University, and is recognised as the leading scholar on the feminist movement in Singapore. Her long-term interest in the women’s movement in Singapore culminated in 2004 with the publication of her book A State of Ambivalence: The Feminist Movement in Singapore, published by Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden. This book explores the place of AWARE (Association of Women for Action and Research) in the Singaporean women's movement. Her ongoing work on NGO activism resulted in a national workshop on civil society in Singapore held in 2004. Papers from this workshop were published as “Democracy and Civil Society: NGO Politics in Singapore” a special edition of Sojourn in October 2005.

Associate Professor Lyons has had many years experience in research management positions at the University of Wollongong. In addition to her work as CAPTRANS Director, she is a member of the University’s Academic Senate and University Research Committee. From 2000-2003 she was Manager of the University’s Graduate Centre.

In 2005, Associate Professor Lyons was awarded two ARC Discovery grants. In the Shadow of Singapore (http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/research/intheshadow/), jointly held with Dr Michele Ford, University of Sydney, examines the impact of cross-border interactions between Riau Islanders (Indonesia) and Singaporeans. The second project, Trans/national activism: Organizing for Domestic Worker Rights in Southeast Asia, explores the growth of migrant worker advocacy groups in Singapore and Malaysia. Together these two projects encapsulate her passionate interest in the impact that globalisation is having on the construction of national identity in Southeast Asia, and the way these changes have impacted on local and national governance processes.

Ms Aileen Salonga

Aileen Salonga is a PhD student at the Department of English Language and Literature of the National University of Singapore. She finished her B.A. in English Studies at the University of the Philippines and her M.A. in English at the Virginia Polytechnic and State University. Her research interests include gender theory, gender and globalization studies, and discourse analysis. For her PhD, she is working on the feminization of the discourse about and used within the call center industry in the Philippines.

Ms Evelyn Wong

Evelyn Wong is currently Director of the International Affairs Department in the Singapore National Trades Union Congress (NTUC). She joined the NTUC in 1986 as Assistant Director, responsible for labour education. From 1990-1999, she served as the first Director of the Singapore Institute of Labour Studies (renamed the Ong Teng Cheong Institute of Labour Studies), contributing to its founding and establishment.

She was Research Director for the Ontario Nurses Association in Canada (1974 to 1980). She holds a BSc degree (Hons, Chemistry), Master in Business Administration and Master in Industrial Relations from University of Toronto.