

## **SNIC Distinguished Chemistry Service Awards 2011**

**Prof Leo Tan**

*President of the Singapore National Academy of Science*

A marine biologist by training, Prof Leo Tan's research interests cover marine aquaculture, ecology and environmental science. He published extensively in international journals, including SCIENCE and NATURE.

Leo's great passion and strong interest in the education of school teachers and students began in the University of Singapore where he conducted marine ecology courses (on a voluntary basis) for teachers. This interest continued at the Singapore Science Centre (SSC) where as Director and CEO, he promoted consciousness and understanding among students and the general public of the relevance of science and technology in their everyday lives, through non-formal science education and experiential learning. By the time he left the Science Centre, it was hailed one of the top science museums in the world by the International Council of Museums.

As a full-time teacher educator and administrator, Prof Tan had overall responsibility for the training of teachers from initial to in-service, including the flagship research and leadership programmes in NIE. Under his leadership, NIE grew to become a teacher education institution of distinction, regarded by many of its peers in countries such as the UK, USA and Australia as one of the top such institutions in the world. NIE became turnkey consultants to Abu Dhabi (2002) and Bahrain (2007) to establish Colleges of Education based on the NIE model.

Prof Tan is a well recognized educator of youth in Singapore. He also served as a facilitator/supporter of youth in the Annual Singapore Youth Science Fortnight for all Singapore school students and Asia Pacific participants (1982 to 1991); National Youth Service Awards Panel (1982

to 2007), the Sunburst Youth Camp for ASEAN and Asian participants (1999 to present) and the National Youth Achievement Award Council (1992 to the present).

He is the President of the Singapore National Academy of Science, of which SNIC was one of the founding members.

He now promotes the importance of science communication to teachers, journalists and all who have to explain science and technology to their respective audiences and the public through a unique joint Master degree from the NUS and the Australian National University. The Science Centre Singapore is a partner.

In recognition of his great impact and contribution to the development of science and science education in Singapore, SNIC has the honour to confer the SNIC Distinguished Chemistry Service Award to Prof. Leo Tan.