



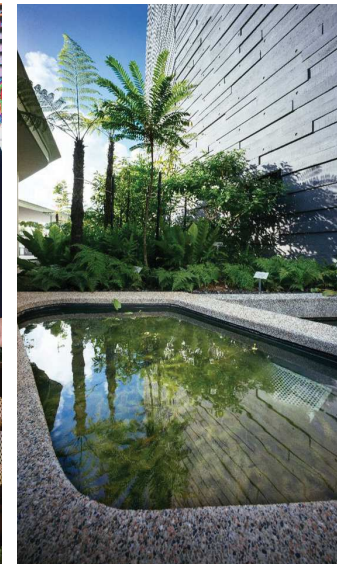
**PROFESSOR LEO  
TAN WEE HIN**

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A marine biologist by training, passionate teacher at heart, and champion of a thousand green causes in a career that spans 50 years, Professor Leo Tan Wee Hin has dedicated his life to science and education and served the cause of Singapore on numerous fronts. His contribution towards establishing various interdisciplinary environmental programmes in Singapore not only placed NUS on the map for environmental and sustainability education internationally, it also left a legacy for Singapore.

Prof. Tan was instrumental in numerous conservation initiatives in Singapore, championing and advocating the protection of the invaluable natural resources and its vast biodiversity. He served as Chairman of the National Parks Board (NParks) from 1998 to 2007, steering the organisation towards a vision of sustainable green future for Singapore through the concept of “City in a Garden”. Prof. Tan successfully campaigned for the designation of Sungei Buloh Wetlands and Labrador Park as a protected nature reserve in 2002. He was instrumental in planning and leading two major research projects for Singapore. One was on Singapore’s first landfill at Pulau Semakau – a research survey on the biodiversity of the mangroves, intertidal zone, seagrass beds and all the flora and fauna therein. The second was a comprehensive marine biodiversity survey of Singapore’s coastal environment. He further championed the publication of the Encyclopedia of Singapore Biodiversity – a ground-breaking comprehensive compilation of the island’s biodiversity.

Scaling up the need to help people appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature, Prof. Tan initiated and successfully established the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in Singapore, a first of its kind in Asia, to develop new appreciation for living things and instil the need to conserve the environment. Prof. Tan’s tireless efforts towards raising the profile of science and appreciation of the biodiversity around us has been instrumental in the journey towards building a ‘City in Nature’ for future generations.



#### EVALUATORS’ CITATION

Professor Tan has been instrumental in initiating many conservation projects in Singapore, championing and advocating the protection of these valuable natural resources and their vast biodiversity. He has led the NParks Board with this same vision and advanced Singapore as a biophilic city, using his expertise and background in science, education and environmental awareness. As an academic, he sets an exemplary example in making continuous efforts to build a greater public awareness and appreciation for biodiversity and nature conservation. One of his more significant environmental projects was saving a thirteen hectare area of mangrove forest from pressure to build the Semakau landfill; instead he persuaded authorities to replant an equivalent area as part of their restitution works, to double as biological indicators of possible pollution from landfill leachate.

**Professor Tan is deserving of this Luminary Award because of his continuous advocacy and championing of environmental strategies and preservation of natural resources that has contributed to the success of Singapore as a Biophilic city.**