

OGSS NEWS

Marking of Kandang Kerbau Hospital as a Historic Site

Date: 22 March 2003
Time: 1.30 – 5.00pm
Venue: Auditorium at LTA Hampshire Road Office
(the old KKH Lecture Theatre)
Blk 5 Level 1, No. 1 Hampshire Road,
Singapore 219428

The National Heritage Board (NHB) marked **Kandang Kerbau Hospital (KK Hospital)** as a Historic Site as an acknowledgement of its significance in Singapore's social and medical history. The marking ceremony was held at the old KK Hospital Lecture Theatre – present day auditorium at Land Transport Authority (LTA) Hampshire Road Office, on 22 March 2003. To commemorate the marking of KK Hospital as a Historic Site, Guest of Honour, His Excellency President S R Nathan, unveiled a commemorative storyboard detailing the history of the KK Hospital.

This historic site was the former world's largest maternity hospital. The KK Hospital had been assessed by NHB to be of historical significance as a pioneer in the provision of maternity and O&G care in Singapore. The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS) representing the fraternity of obstetricians and gynaecologists of Singapore, almost all of which have been trained or worked in KK Hospital, is pleased that KK Hospital's distinct significance is recognised.

The marking of KK Hospital as a historic site was a collaboration between the National Heritage Board and the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore with the help of the KK Women's and Children's Hospital and Land Transport Authority. The event was held in conjunction with the 20th Benjamin Henry Sheares Memorial Lecture. Other highlights included a photograph session with President S R

Nathan at the New Wing of KK Hospital, where it witnessed a record of just over one million births from 1955 to 1997 and a nostalgic tour for former staff of KK Hospital and members of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore (OGSS).

The Benjamin Henry Sheares Lecture was established when Dr Sheares was President of the Republic of Singapore in 1971. On his demise in 1981, the nomenclature of the lecture was changed to Benjamin Henry Sheares Memorial Lecture. In the discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Singapore, the torch of progress and achievement is carried by successive generations of talented researchers in the Benjamin Henry Sheares Memorial Lectureship awarded annually by the O&G Society of Singapore.

The 20th Benjamin Henry Sheares Memorial Lecture was held at the same old lecture theatre which was the hub of O&G education in old KKH and Singapore from 1924 to 1997. It was delivered by Dr Kenneth Kwek, Consultant Dept of Maternal Fetal Medicine, KK Women's and Children's Hospital on the important topic of "The Frontiers of Preterm Labour – Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Clinical Treatment".

The Singapore Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology originated in 1956 as the Bulletin of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital with Professor Benjamin Henry Sheares as the Editor.