

DENISE PHUA LAY PENG

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Denise is a full-time volunteer serving as President of the Autism Resource Centre (Singapore) or ARC. She also serves as School Supervisor in the School Boards of 2 special schools, the *Pathlight School* and the *Eden School*.

She is also a Member of Parliament in the Jalan Besar GRC and is now serving the Kampong Glam ward. Her key interest areas are in championing the needs and aspirations of people who are risk of being left behind in Singapore, especially in the areas of education, employment and social services.

Before giving up her corporate job to serve in the special needs sector on 1 January 2005, she had more than 22 years of corporate management experience, local and overseas. She started her career in Human Resource in Hewlett-Packard Singapore (HP), where she gained valuable experience spanning 20 years in human resource management, product marketing and marketing communications in both local and overseas capacities, spending several years in both Beijing, China and Palo Alto, United States in Marketing Communications.

Denise later became the Regional Managing Director/Consultant and a founding partner of the Centre for Effective Leadership (Asia) Pte Ltd (CEL).

Denise was educated in Raffles Girls' Secondary School and Hwa Chong Junior College in Singapore. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the National University of Singapore, a Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management and a Master of Business Administration Degree from the Golden Gate University, United States. She was voted as the winner of the 2005/6 "Great Women of Our Times, Education and Public Service Category" awarded by the Singapore Women's Weekly.

In 2005, Denise was appointed by the Singapore government as a member of the Feedback Unit Supervisory Panel. In 2006, she was appointed to chair a Parent Workgroup on Enhancing Financial Security for People with Special Needs. In 2007, Denise was also tasked to lead a 'Enabling Masterplan' sub-committee on Early Intervention and Education of Children with Special Needs formed by the MCYS.