It took Miss Wee Eng Hwa — daughter of the late President Wee Kim Wee — more than 21 years to compile a cookbook of Peranakan recipes. Called *Cooking for the President: Reflections & Recipes of Mrs Wee Kim Wee*, it captures family recipes from four generations. The book, launched yesterday by President S R Nathan, also traces her father's career from a clerk to the President.

Said Mr Nathan: “I say this is a labour of love, because Wee Eng Hwa spent many days and hours, since the passing away of her beloved father, to elicit from her mother the secret of her Peranakan dishes, which have gained the reputation Mrs Wee enjoys for them today.”

Ms Wee said her father had discerning tastebuds and would offer valuable advice on cooking. Said Ms Wee: “He described to me how his mother had cooked it, the texture and so on.”

A charity drive held in conjunction with the book launch pooled over $1 million in charity proceeds, which will go to beneficiaries including the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund at NTU and the Jamiyah Home For The Aged.