



Wee Eng Hwa

NEWS RELEASE

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**A NONYA LEGACY FOR SINGAPORE
... IN MEMORY OF WEE KIM WEE**

Mrs Wee Kim Wee and daughter Eng Hwa share their stories and recipes of success when *Cooking for the President*

Over \$1 million in charity proceeds will benefit Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund at NTU and 4 other beneficiaries

Mrs Wee Kim Wee and her daughter, Eng Hwa, today unveiled the book ***Cooking for the President: Reflections & Recipes of Mrs Wee Kim Wee***. The book – a landmark publication featuring authentic Straits Chinese Nonya culinary tradition, integrated into the story of Mr and Mrs Wee Kim Wee, two extraordinary ordinary Singaporeans – was launched this afternoon by Mr SR Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore at the Raffles Hotel Ballroom.

The fully illustrated book aims to please food lovers of all ages with delicious, easy recipes and great tips for cooking Peranakan (Straits Chinese) cuisine. Since the tender age of 10, Mrs Wee Kim Wee (Koh Sok Hiong) learned to cook Peranakan cuisine from her talented grandmother. Mrs Wee has always wanted to have a cookbook published of what she has learned and developed in Peranakan cuisine, to preserve the heritage for future generations.

Her daughter, Eng Hwa, took up the challenge to realise her mother's dream. She began learning from her mother in 1989 and has written the book, cooked, designed and photographed the dishes. It has been over 21 years since she embarked on the project.

"Every Peranakan family has its own unique way of cooking certain dishes and my mother's vision was to preserve the unique Nonya recipes that have been handed down from her grandmother to her." said Eng Hwa. "*Cooking for the President* includes some of my grandmother's and my own recipes of iconic Singapore dishes adapted to suit our Peranakan taste buds. The book, thus, captures the family recipes of 4 generations. It offers many practical tips for anyone who wants to spice up their kitchen with my mother's flavourful ideas and helpful advice". It shows how cooking and entertaining have been an integral part in the art of living for my parents'.

"The book is my mother's Nonya legacy dedicated to her family, friends and Singaporeans for their love for Wee Kim Wee, and my dedication to my parents to honour them for their devotion to, and love for, their family, friends and country".

"My aim in writing the story of my parents and incorporating the reflections of the family and friends about them is to share with our youths and future generations of Singaporeans certain moral values and principles of life that my parents held fast and their attitude towards people, to give hope to the youths who are facing challenges and a meaning to their lives".

The book features some 230 exciting Peranakan and vernacular recipes with some 1,000 colour photographs and illustrations. It also tells the story of the author's parents tracing her father's career development – from a clerk, a journalist and newspaperman, a diplomat and up to the time he became the President of Singapore and her mother's care and support. The book offers first-hand insights into President Wee Kim Wee's private life with never-before-published photographs. The story is interwoven with the recipes, as cooking and dining and entertaining at home have been a significant feature in the family's activities.

In anticipation of the launch of the book, signed copies of *Cooking for the President: Reflections & Recipes of Mrs Wee Kim Wee* were earmarked for fundraising for Mrs Wee's chosen causes. Over \$1 million dollars were raised earlier this year. The funds will benefit five charities: Girl Guides Singapore; Jamiyah Home for the Aged (Darul Takrim); Life Community Services Society; Trybe Limited (formerly known as Save the Children Singapore Limited); and the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund for NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

Said Dr Su Guaning, NTU President, “Nanyang Technological University is very honoured and privileged and to be among the carefully selected beneficiaries of Mrs Wee’s culinary and philanthropic legacy. Apart from the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund at NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Mrs Wee has also designated the funds raised for the benefit of four other organisations that offer programmes and services in aid of disadvantaged children, youths, young adults, and the aged. On behalf of NTU and the other beneficiaries, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to Mrs Wee Kim Wee and members of the Wee family, for their steadfast support to advance education, create opportunities for disadvantaged children and youths, and to nurture enduring values.”

Cooking for the President will be available at leading book retailers and also online.

Book Details

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