



On a nature walk in Yunnan – taking a lunch break.

DR GEH MIN

(MBBS, FRCS, FAMS) is an ophthalmologist by profession. She is a nature lover and a committed conservationist of both our natural and man-made heritage. She is presently serving her 7th term as President of the Nature Society (Singapore) and was sworn in as a Nominated Member of Parliament on 29 November 2004 with serving term from 1 January 2005 to 19 April 2006.

She is a board member of The Nature Conservancy’s Asia Pacific Council and the Singapore Environment Council. She is also on the Board of the Water Network of Public Utilities Board and heads the Environment and Health Functional Committee of the South-West Community Development Council. She co-chaired the Air & Climate Change focus group for the implementation of the Singapore Green Plan 2012 and was also a member of the URA Focus Group on Land Allocation for Concept Plan 2001, the URA Subject Group on Rustic Coast Parks & Waterbodies Plan, Member of SGP2012 Coordinating Committee. She is also on the Resource panel for Women’s Workgroups at Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports and a committee member of the International Women Forum. She led the Singapore Delegation at the “Citoyens de la Terre” (“Citizens of the Earth”) Conference on climate change, February 2007 and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Weather Study Project.

She has received the award for the Most Successful Woman Who Contributes to Society on 19 October 2006 by Stellar Awards – Celebrating Women (UNIFEM) and the inaugural President’s Award for the Environment on 10 November 2006 for



Photographing in Iran.

contributions towards protecting and enhancing the environment. She is married to a cardiac surgeon and has one daughter.

When I was a child, I wanted to be ...

An astronaut and travel to the stars – it did not take long for me to come down to Earth.

The most influential person in my early life was ...

My maternal grandmother.

My best medical school memory is ...

Passing my finals and saying goodbye for good to being a medical student.

The most memorable thing I can remember as a practising doctor is ...

Seeing a live human brain exposed on the operating table for the first time. It was awesome to see the source of the human mind appear so fragile and vulnerable.

The most touching thing I can remember as a practising doctor is ...

The amazing ability of young children to adapt to serious illness and physical disabilities. Their courage and ability to adapt and to be interested in the world around them is admirable and inspiring.

The most amusing thing I can remember as a practising doctor is ...

My first letter from the College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) after getting my FRCS. It was addressed to Mr Geh. I had not realised that becoming a surgeon entailed a sex change.

The best thing a patient ever said to me was ...

“你是我们的恩人。” (You are my benefactor.) What is more she says it every year when she comes for review. I do not remember the (worst) unpleasant things said to me by patients or colleagues. Selective amnesia is a necessity in the practice of medicine.

I spend my Sunday mornings ...

On nature walks. Dawn is the best time to be out in a nature area and by 10 o'clock, you are ready for a big breakfast.

A bad habit I would like to kick is ...

Losing my temper.

My greatest extravagance is ...

Wasting time.

The books I am currently reading are ...

Seven Deadly Colours – the Genius of Nature's



Receiving the Inaugural Presidential Environmental Award 2006.



With my husband in Komodo – can you spot the Komodo dragon in the background?

Palette and how it Eluded Darwin by Andrew Parker and *Making Globalization Work: The Next Steps to Global Justice* by Joseph Stiglitz.

My favourite author is ...

Jane Austen.

The music playing in my car stereo is ...

Bach's Goldberg Variations by Andreas Schiff (pianist).

My favourite song/singer is ...

Jessye Norman, singing Richard Strauss' 4 Last Songs.

The last movie I watched was ...

The Queen.

I think everyone should watch ...

An Inconvenient Truth.

My biggest food weakness is ...

Pig's brain (see Question 4).

I would like to be remembered as ...

Someone who tried to make the environment a better place for future generations. ■