

**CHIA HWEE PHENG, 51**  
**LITERARY ARTS**

Writing in Chinese under the pseudonym Xi Ni Er, Hwee Pheng is an accomplished poet and novelist. He is a winner of many major awards including the Golden Lion Literary Awards and the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS)'s Book Awards.

Hwee Pheng is currently the President of the Singapore Association of Writers (SAW) and the Vice President of the World Chinese Mini-Fiction Research Association. He has also served on the panel of judges for the Golden Point Awards and the Malaysia Chinese Literary Awards.

He has published eight books: one collection of essays, four collections of fiction and three collections of poetry. The poetry collection, *Kidnapping Times* (1989), and the fiction collection, *The Unbearable Heaviness of Life* (1992) received the Book Awards by NBDCS. His literary works are studied in Singapore schools and as a thesis subject at university.

Published in 2004, *The Mini-Fiction of Xi Ni Er* was selected as a featured book for the National Library Board's READ! Singapore initiative in 2005 and shortlisted for the Singapore Literature Prize in 2006.

Since becoming a member of SAW in 1988, he has been actively participating in the Association's many literary activities - from being involved in the editorial work of Literature Half-Yearly, Mini-Fiction Quarterly and numerous other publishing projects, to organising seminars and workshops, such as the international conferences, Man and Nature: Literature on the Environment (1999) and Children Literature and Chinese Language Learning and Teaching (2004).

In 2004, he was appointed the Chief Editor of Singapore Chinese Literature, one of the longest-running literary journals in Southeast Asia.

Aside from organising and participating in literary activities in Singapore, he has also taken part in overseas conferences and symposiums, such as the World Chinese Writers' Conference (Taiwan, 1998), International Poets Conference (China, 2005) and World Chinese Mini-Fiction Conference (held over various years in Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei). In 2007, he participated in Singapore Season in China as one of the delegates promoting Singapore literature through talks and readings for the public and students in Beijing and Shanghai.

A winner himself of many major awards including the Golden Lion Literary Awards and the National Book Development Council of Singapore's Book Awards, he has served on the panel of judges for the Golden Point Awards and the Malaysia Chinese Literary Awards.