

# MEET

# PEARLEEN CHAN

## PROFILE OF A GRADUATE IN MATHEMATICS

*... It has been an accepted norm that graduates in mathematics are highly analytical individuals who have been trained to think.*



**Pearleen Chan**  
Managing Director  
Singapore Network Services  
Pte Ltd

Mathematics is a discipline which trains the mind to think by using abstract settings such as the study of number theory, algebra and geometry. It does not rely on the technical information of a given situation. Even though in reality, problems often arise from a specific area, the process of thinking about how to resolve the situation brings us back to fundamental issues - the first principles. This is the reason why many employers favour graduates from mathematics. It has been an accepted norm that graduates in mathematics are highly analytical individuals who have been trained to think.

Of what a graduate in mathematics is capable can be illustrated by profiling the highly successful Mrs Pearleen Chan, Managing Director of Singapore Network Services Pte Ltd, who graduated from the University of Singapore with an honours degree in mathematics.

Pearleen spent more than twenty years in the information technology (IT) industry, specializing in information system strategies and development. As the Deputy General Manager of the National Computer Board in the eighties, Pearleen was given the task of implementing the multimillion dollar Civil Service Computerization Programme (CSCP). Within five years, the challenging task of permeating the use of computers to all Government Ministries was accomplished. More than 100 mainframes and mini-computers had been installed, more than 300 applications had been developed and implemented, and more than 500 IT professionals were actively engaged in further development of the CSCP. Her achievements were manifested in the results - an upturn in productivity and quicker turnaround in services offered directly to the public.

Pearleen later set up the Singapore Network Services Pte Ltd as an extension to the national computerization effort to build an infrastructure for effective inter-organizational communication and information access for both the public and private sectors. The company pioneered the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) technology when it implemented the first nation-wide trading network, TradeNet, which left a resounding impact on the business and trade sector in Singapore. For her outstanding efforts and instrumental role in the EDI movement, Pearleen has been accorded the title of "EDI Pioneer" by the US-based EDI Forum publication.

Pearleen also holds the title of an Expert in Information Technology (Asia Pacific), from the UN International Organization of Experts. The success story of Pearleen has been made possible by the vision, the drive and the determination to succeed as a trail blazer in bringing together a nation for a common objective-national development. M<sup>2</sup>

*The Editorial Board would like to thank Mrs Pearleen Chan for her kindness in allowing the Medley to publish this profile and supplying much useful information.*