

# New GM for Central Singapore CDC

By Teo Shu Juan



The big handover from Mr Kelvin Tan. Ms Kwek started as GM on April 1.

**Her back** erect, her makeup perfect and every strand of hair of her precisely-cut bob in place, it is hard to imagine that Central Singapore's new General Manager, Ms Agnes Kwek enjoys a past-time as energetic as wakeboarding.

"It was a friend who introduced me to the sport in 2001 and it became a passion because of the challenge and speed. I frequent either the wakeboarding centre at Raffles Marina or Punggol," said the 29-year-old. She wakeboards with her husband, whom she married less than a year ago.

The PSC scholar, who studied at Oxford University, met her husband at the University of Chicago while doing her masters in International Relations. On her return to Singapore, she was posted to the Ministry of Defence.

However, since she took over as General Manager of Central Singapore Community Development Council on April 1, wakeboarding has had to take a backseat because of her heavy schedule.

Constantly on her mind now is how her CDC can encourage bonding among Central's residents and make them more aware of the work the CDC has done.

Says the Hwa Chong Institute old girl: "By making the community more aware of what we have done, we can then be of more help to them.

"People in need of help will know who to look for, and those who want to give a helping hand but have no idea where to start can go through us to reach out to those in need."

She adds: "Besides going through the CDC, a very effective way to help is to constantly look out for each other. We know our neighbours better than anyone else, so if anything is amiss, we can be the first to help out.

"In this way, the CDC and the community can work together to give help to those who need it."

Help was also on the mind of her predecessor, Mr Kelvin Tan, 31, who is expecting his second child this month and is now the deputy director of policy at the People's Association.

Another PSC scholar, he studied in Princeton University and holds a masters in management science and engineering from Stanford University. He says: "I was very impressed by the dedication of the grassroots leaders in trying to help the community and am very grateful to have worked with such great people."

He takes away many memories from his two-and-a-half year stint at the CDC. But one stands out — an art camp for youngsters.

"I spent the afternoon just doing arts and crafts with these children and finding out more about their lives. The children were really excited because many of them were never given the opportunity to take part in these activities.

"What struck me then was the importance of giving opportunities to children from low-income families."

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GM Agnes Kwek