

ISSUE 1

NATIONAL-LEVEL ENDORSEMENTS OF CAAS PURSUIT OF EFFICIENCY AND EXCELLENCE

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) aims to drive efficiency in all areas of aviation; and in the aspect of airspace management, it is especially important to ensure the smooth flow of traffic within the Singapore Flight Information Region (FIR). The practices of CAAS and air traffic controllers were recognised nationally with the award of a Public Administration Medal (Bronze) to the Chief of the Singapore Air Traffic Control Centre.

Sebastian Lim received recognition for his efforts in improving Changi Airport's airspace and simplifying air traffic management. The medal was presented to him by President S R Nathan at the National University of Singapore University Cultural Centre on 1 November 2009.

Lim recounts the time where he had to think quick on his feet to find solutions when lightning knocked out the LORADS I radar system at the Air Traffic Control Centre. "To ensure that air traffic movement was not disrupted, we had to first rely on procedural control to continue operations. Our replacement radar system, LORADS II, was then activated and we also recalled staff for duty," he said.

When Lim was informed that he was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze), he was pleasantly surprised and humbled. "I count myself fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve the nation with the unstinting support of CAAS senior management and operational staff," he says. "In a way, this award recognises the contribution of the aviation sector to Singapore's growth."

Sixteen other CAAS officers also received their honours at last year's National Day Awards, which were presented by Raymond Lim, Minister of Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Lim Hwee Hua, Second Minister for Finance and Transport. One of the most prestigious awards in Singapore, the National Day Awards recognises public officers for their various merit and service to Singapore. CAAS officers received recognition in four categories: Public Administration (Bronze), Commendation, Efficiency and Long Service.