

## 2014 Business China Excellence Award Recipient

**Dr Liu Thai Ker**

**Age: 76**

Senior Director, RSP Architects Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd.

### Background

Liu Thai Ker was born on 23 February 1938 in Muar, Malaysia and moved from Muar to Singapore after World War II. He is a Singaporean, residing in Singapore.

### Business/Professional Achievements

- Former Chief Architect and CEO, Housing Development Board (HDB) 1969-1989  
Changed Singapore's urban housing scene from "large scale estates" to self-sufficient new towns
- Former Chief Planner and CEO, Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) 1989-1992  
Formulated URA's Concept Plan 1991 for Singapore's development into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Director, RSP Architects Planners and Engineers  
Selected Recent Works in China
  - **Planning**
    - New Town:
      - Changdao County Concept Master Plan, Shandong
      - Chongqing City Liangjiang Sian Concept Master Plan
      - Zhangzhou Coastal District Concept Master Plan, Fujian
    - Region:
      - Guangzhou Knowledge City Concept Master Plan, Guangdong
      - Hengqin District Concept Master Plan, Zhuhai, Guangdong
      - Qingdao Blue Silicon Valley Concept Master Plan, Shandong
    - City:
      - Yangzhou City Concept Master Plan, Jiangsu
      - Qufu Concept Master Plan, Shandong
      - Xiangyang City Concept Master Plan, Hubei
      - Taian Concept Master Plan, Shandong
      - Zhuhai City Concept Master Plan, Guangdong

MegaCity  
Greater Jining Master Plan  
Greater Chengdu Master Plan  
Greater Xian Master Plan

- **Architecture**

Weifang Cultural Center, Shandong  
Zhuhai Huafa Xincheng Residential, Guangdong  
Guilin Watermark Residential, Guangxi  
Xiamen Polyclinic, Fujian  
Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Fujian

- **Other Selected Recent Architecture Projects in China by RSP**

Chengdu Shawan Mall, Chengdu  
Tian Tong Yuan, Beijing  
Xi Zhi Men Mall, Beijing

- Former chairman of National Arts Council, 1996-2005 and Chairman, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 2000-2009. During his years in the council, total arts activities grew by 3 times, number of arts groups and companies increased to 580.
- Chairman, Centre for Liveable Cities, 2008-Now

### **Contributions to Singapore-China Relations**

- Well regarded in China by many PRC provincial and city leaders for his remarkable architectural and town planning achievements, and his ability to converse professionally in Mandarin.
- Appointed as the planning adviser to around 30 cities, and Chairman of Jury for the Master Plan of the 2008 Beijing Olympics Park.
- Involved in the design of the Chinese Embassy in Singapore, and the China Cultural Centre, both the first in the world to be designed by a Singapore architect.

The ground-breaking ceremony of the China Cultural Centre held in 2010 was a significant event whereby Singapore and China celebrated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

- In August 2011, he participated in a joint venture project between Singaporeans living in the coastal province of Fujian and the Xiamen municipal

government, which involved building a polyclinic named as "Friendship Polyclinic". He designed the polyclinic for free.

- Adjunct Professor at National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Xiamen University, seeking to boost the cultural ties between Singapore and China
- Regarded as the "Father of Urban Planning" of Singapore by the Chinese authority, he was invited to participate in the China International Urbanisation Forum in March 2012
- In July 2012, he was hired by Zhuhai government as chief adviser of urban planning strategy, to bring in Singapore's advanced experience in related areas to chart a blueprint for Zhuhai until 2050. This strategic partnership agreement helped to draw closer economic relationship between Singapore and China.
- In May 2013, Dr Liu gave a talk organised by Overseas Singaporean Unit, to overseas Singaporeans in Beijing as part of the efforts to keep Singaporeans abreast of industry trends and developments in Singapore's business and economic landscapes.
- In 2014, Dr Liu was one of the 12 high-profile panel members of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize that awarded the year's award to the city of Suzhou.
- Referred to as Singapore's 'father of urban planning' by the Chinese media and is highly respected by many mainlanders in the property development and city planning arenas, including SOHO China co-founder Pan Shiyi

## **Selected Awards**

### **Directly**

2009: Outstanding Service Award at NUS University Award

2001: Singapore Institute of Architects Gold Medal

2001: Medal of the City of Paris, France

1994: Honorary Citizen of Fuzhou Award, Fujian, People's Republic of China

1993: Second ASEAN Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions, for architecture

1985: Meritorious Service Medal, Singapore

1976: Public Administration Medal (Gold), Singapore

### **Indirectly**

1991: UN Habitat Scroll of Honour to URA

1990: Sir Robert Matthew Prize, by the International Union of Architects, to HDB for improvements of the quality of human settlement