Four social workers honoured for their efforts

They and their colleagues continued to help others even amid pandemic, says Halimah

Malavika Menon

When a massive earthquake struck Sichuan in 2008, social worker Lim Boon Chee was helping HIV and Aids patients in the Guangxi region in southern China.

Ms Lim, who was at the time working for World Vision International (China), travelled to areas hit by the temblor in the south-west of the country, and volunteered to provide psychological first aid to victims.

Twice, she thought she was going to die, but she braved the after-shocks and made two trips to the region - the first lasted about two weeks and the second was for a month.

Yesterday, Ms Lim, 45, received the Outstanding Social Worker Award for her tireless efforts in helping vulnerable groups in Singapore and overseas. She was among four social work leaders who were honoured at a virtual ceremony.

The award is the highest accolade given to social workers for their exemplary achievements in serving the community.

Organised by the Singapore Association of Social Workers, the virtual ceremony was supported by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and Excon-Mobil Asia Pacific.

In a speech at the ceremony, President Halimah Yacob said social workers have continued to help people despite the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

She said: “Many of you creatively leveraged technology to sustain regular and remote engagement with clients. On the front line, social workers adapted to the new safety measures at your agencies and residential facilities while continuing to provide care to clients.”

“This year’s award recipients have shown immense commitment and influence in their different work settings. They are an inspiration to others to join the profession, and a reminder to social workers that ‘you can make a difference in someone’s life’.

Source: The Straits Times

Ms Lim Boon Chee, who is now principal mental health social worker and art psychotherapist at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, received the Outstanding Social Worker Award for her tireless efforts in helping vulnerable groups in Singapore and overseas.

PHOTO: NG TENG FONG GENERAL HOSPITAL