

SEEING THE FUTURE

In December 2013, Tay Hai Gek joined Mount Elizabeth Novena with a momentous task — to set up the hospital's maternity services unit. In four months, six delivery rooms and a first-stage room, a six-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 12 single-room pre- and postnatal wards and a nursery were operational. It was a feat but Hai Gek is not ready to stop.

"I tend to imagine the future when I look at the

present. When I was setting up maternity services, I already had expansion plans in mind," she said. She has already turned some of these plans into reality with the addition of a delivery room, 15 single rooms and a nursery for neonatal jaundice babies.

Thanks to her foresight, Mount Elizabeth Novena was well equipped to welcome over 4,400 babies in just three years.

TAY HAI GEK

Senior Assistant Director of Nursing
Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital

From Reject to Award Recipient

Hai Gek may be a Senior Assistant Director of Nursing today but her 41-year nursing career was not always smooth sailing.

"My first attempt at becoming a Registered Nurse was rejected. I was told that I wasn't qualified. This was back in 1976. Instead, I was offered a job as a midwife," she said.

Undeterred, she took it, did her best and in 1984, finally began training as a Registered Nurse. After completing the programme, she chose to continue serving in the maternity ward and even went on to specialise in neonatology.

"I believe that everyone deserves an opportunity at life but not all of us are given that chance. Having come from a humble background, I hope to help others — whether it's caring for premature babies and supporting my nurses' development journey or helping less privileged students complete their education. What defines me as a person, defines me as a nurse too."

