

The Subordinate Courts 10th Annual Workplan 2001/2002



Beyond World Class: Subordinate Courts Built to Last

The Annual Workplan sets out the challenges which the Subordinate Courts will face in the coming year, and the goals we will be striving to achieve.

The Subordinate Courts 10th Annual Workplan 2001/2002, *Beyond World Class: Subordinate Courts Built to Last*, was launched on 28 April 2001. The keynote address was delivered by the Honourable the Chief Justice Yong Pung How.

In the keynote address, His Honour announced major initiatives to be undertaken by the various justice models in the fields of case management, enhancing the accessibility of justice, the provision of services to the public, judicial education, knowledge management, procedural reforms, and international co-operation with foreign judiciaries.

"We cannot rest on our laurels as the primus inter pares or the best of the best judiciaries. The Subordinate Courts must be built to last far beyond my term as Chief Justice and through the demanding phases of our nation building. This is my challenge to you.

...Singapore is facing a more difficult external economic and political environment and in responding to the relentless pace of globalisation technology. Also, there are domestic issues to be dealt with such as an ageing population, a widening income distribution and the social stresses they cause. The new generation of Singaporeans is better educated and informed. They have grown used to high standards of public service, and have become more exacting in their expectations and less tolerant of errors and sub-standard service. The context of legal practice has also changed dramatically. Enhancements to the justice system should take into account the challenges presented by a diverse, increasingly competitive and dynamic legal practice.

...We must therefore build the Subordinate Courts to last through multiple and incessant change cycles. And we must go for quality results. This is known as 'clock building'.

...Unlike business corporations, courts are a monopoly business and do not face the brutal competition that is common in the private sector. This means that a judicial system must set itself higher thresholds of what constitutes excellent performance and efficiency which must also be transparent to the community."



Yong Pung How

The Honourable the Chief Justice
YONG PUNG HOW