

Lee Peh Gee (NBS/1998)

Acrophobic mountaineer, Deputy Head (Logistics), HQ Signals and Command Systems



Photo | NATAS Singapore Women's Everest Team

The climb to the Everest summit was a dream come true for alumna Lee Peh Gee, who would you believe it, suffers from the fear of height? "In fact, I still have it!" she exclaimed.

"I hope that our feat has demonstrated that it is possible to achieve a seemingly impossible dream. There will always be people who would laugh at us, or put us down, but as long as we stay focused, and willing to keep trying, eventually, we will achieve what we want," she shared.

Adding, she said: "I find the easiest part about our Everest expedition was saying 'yes' to it. The hardest was to sustain that willingness to be part of it, especially when the going got tough." The expedition took five years to materialise.

Not only did the sheer difficulty of the climb cause disruption, sponsorship issues almost caused the team to abort the idea. While the team had resources to train themselves physically for the challenge, the climb almost suffered an 'avalanche' due to the lack of sponsorships. "It was like an insurmountable challenge until NATAS came in to support. Throughout this period, we did not compromise our goal; instead, we decided to forge ahead to meet the challenge," revealed Peh Gee.

Life has gotten back to routine for Peh Gee since she returned from Everest. One sensed that she had experienced a personal change. "I've learnt to recognise the feeling of inadequacy and to accept that it is normal and that it will come to pass. As long as we pick ourselves up and make conscious choices, we'll be able to achieve what we want," she shared.

"I don't have a life motto, but I've gained a lot of lessons from the Everest experience. I realised that what I managed to achieve today is a result of the choices that I had made day to day," she added.

She has resumed her favourite pastimes – reading and watching plays and art films.

Peh Gee is glad that here in Singapore, efforts have not been spared to develop sports and sporting talents, more so in recent times. The 8,850-metre feat by her team is therefore timely. She hopes their proven track record will inspire women everywhere and motivate the young.