

## Subordinate Courts win UN award

A RESOURCE centre to help people who are representing themselves in court has won the Subordinate Courts a United Nations Public Service Award.

The establishment of the Help centre – which stands for Helping to Empower Litigants-in-Person – clinched the Subordinate Courts the second prize in the category of “Improving the Delivery of Public Services” for Asia and the Pacific region.

The awards will be given out at the UN Public Service Day Awards Ceremony and Forum, in New York this month.

The centre, which was set up in February 2010, provides resources and assistance on court processes, procedures and practices to litigants who are representing themselves, to help them make informed deci-

sions about their cases. Nearly 6,000 people have engaged its services to date.

Lawyers from the Law Society of Singapore, the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Singapore, the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers, and various private legal practices offer free legal advice to self-represented litigants at the centre.

Law students from the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University also volunteer at the centre, by helping to fill forms and explain procedures as well as court documents that need to be filed.

Chief District Judge Tan Siong Thye said the award was a testament to the commitment of the staff and partners of the Subordinate Courts.



**The Subordinate Courts won second prize in the category of “Improving the Delivery of Public Services” for Asia and the Pacific region for the setting-up of its Help centre. PHOTO: SUBORDINATE COURTS OF SINGAPORE**

“Without them, we would not have been able to deliver our shared vision to be a leading subordinate court serving society,” he said. “It is not

about having a cold and hard excellent court system but an efficient and accessible justice system that is served from the heart and with compassion.”