

Headline	Three prominent women in the state receive awards		
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# Three prominent women in the state receive awards

**KUCHING:** Fu Choon Kee received the Chief Minister's Women Social Activist 2011 award yesterday.

Known by many as Matron Fu, the Sarawak General Hospital nursing chief is well-known as a regular face among non-governmental organisations involved in taking care of the health of the less fortunate people.

Having been in the nursing field for 33 years she definitely deserved the award. She has helped raised the people's awareness of HIV/AIDS.

In 2006 she received the Dr Siti Hasmah Award for raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and related social activities, and in 2009 she received the National Nursing Figure award.

She also received the International Rotary Award from the Rotary Club for helping the needy.

She was also given a certificate of appreciation by the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, America for her contributions to a three-month research programme to prevent the spread of Nipa disease. The programme was organised by the World Health Organisation.

Senator Datuk Seri Empiang Jabu received the Datuk Patinggi Laila Taib 2011 award for her contribu-

tions to the development of Iban women as well as the academic field in the state.

Being the first Iban woman graduate, the wife of Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang is not only known for her contributions to politics but also contributions to Iban culture, charity and welfare.

Empiang earned her bachelor's degree from Victoria University in New Zealand in 1967, and a diploma from Epsom Teachers' College (also in New Zealand) in 1968.

Her political endeavour began as Layar PBB Women chief, PBB assistant secretary-general and PBB Women's deputy chief in 1984.

In 2007 Empiang was appointed PBB Women's chief and the following year as BN Sarawak Women's chief. She is also Dayak Cultural Foundation director and Sarakup Indu Dayak, Sarawak and Iban Women Charitable Trust chairman.

In the health arena, Empiang is the chairman of the state's Mental Health Association and Sarawak General Hospital Visitors' Board. She is the director of state's Heart Foundation.

Masama Group of Companies management director, Juita Drap, was awarded the Chief Minister's Women Entrepreneur 2011 award for being the most successful woman entrepreneur in the state.

She started as an entrepreneur in 1985 by supplying electrical appliances to Sarawak Energy Berhad (Sesco) and Public Works Department (JKR).

Her business boomed and she eventually became the provider of pump engines and oil and gas equipment for Petronas in 1987.

Encouraged by her success, Juita opened a construction supply company and eventually became a developer and contractor doing various government and private projects.

Juita is also Sarawak Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce (DUBS) women chief. Through DUBS she has given talks at numerous international seminars. She is also a lions member.

She was awarded the Pingat Ahli Bintang Sarawak in 2008.

Juita was also given the title Sarawak Entrepreneur of the Year 2010, and was also the first woman to have received it.

**Proud moment:** Juita (fourth left), Fu (second left) and Empiang (fifth left) during a photo call with Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife Puan Sri Ragad Kurdi Taib (third right), Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah (fifth right) after the award presentation. — ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE / The Star

