

## Dr. Regina L. Tan Selected as the First USDA Employee to Participate in the AAGEN's Senior Executive Service (SES) Development Program

By Fred Cheng

USDA congratulates Dr. Regina L. Tan for being selected to the Senior Executive Service (SES) Development Program, sponsored by the Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN).

The road to joining the elite Senior Executive Service is not a finely paved road, but a road with twists, turns, and bumps. Dr. Tan has more than ten years of public health experience in preventive medicine and epidemiology. She joined the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) from the MITRE Corporation, where her management of a team of engineers was essential to developing innovative data architecture research and development across the Federal government.

As the Director of the Applied Epidemiology Division, she manages the Consumer Complaint Monitoring System team and hurricane response components.

Dr. Tan's success did not happen overnight, but only after many unnoticed years of dedicated hard work and challenging assignments. AAGEN launched

the SES Development Program to prepare selected candidates, such as Dr. Tan, for the highest levels in federal service. In addition, the program is a response to President Obama's Executive Orders 13515 and 13583, establishing a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce.

On March 21, 2012, AAGEN honored Dr. Tan and 19 other candidates at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building. They were the first class to be inducted into the AAGEN-sponsored Senior Executive Service (SES) Development Program. The program is supported by the White House Initiative on Asian American Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

OPM Director John Berry stated, "This is an important step, not only for the aspiring Senior Executives but also for the future of the SES, as we continue to build a culture

that values and cultivates talent from all backgrounds."

All USDA employees are encouraged to apply for the next AAGEN sponsored SES Development Program this fall. Dr. Tan said her motivation for applying to the SES program encompasses the USDA Mission, "We provide leadership..."



Dr. Regina Tan gives her acceptance speech at White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building after being selected to the SES Development Program, sponsored by the Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN).

## Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program

USDA employees in the Washington, DC area are cordially invited to attend the 2012 Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. The event will be held at the Lincoln Theater (1215 U Street, NW, Washington, DC) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EDT).

This year's theme is "Speak Up—Speak Out." Guest speakers will include Stefania Kenigswain Sitbon, Holocaust Survivor, (*The Zookeeper's Wife—Motion Picture 2012*); Henry Abraham, a U.S. Soldier who gathered evidence for the Nuremberg trial prosecutions; and, Ernst Floeter, a German witness.

There will also be a special performance by the United States Marine Corps Band.

## USDA's UPCOMING SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Observance, Thursday, May 24, 2012, at the Jefferson Auditorium  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Observance, Thursday, June 7, 2102, at the Jefferson Auditorium

Observances are scheduled to begin at 10:00 a. m. (EST)

IF YOU'RE IN DC, PLEASE ADD THESE TO YOUR CALENDAR