

# Signing of Memorandum of Understanding Between National Library Board and Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Mohamad

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On 6 August 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the National Library Board (NLB) and Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Mohamad to formalise the acquisition of Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's collections through donation to NLB. The signing ceremony took place at the residence of Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's daughter in Toa Payoh.

Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Deputy Chief Executive of NLB led the NLB representatives that include Ms Eunice Low who had been instrumental in liaising with Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji and his family to allow NLB to help preserve Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's works and collections.

Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji and his family expressed their sadness in parting with the collections. However, they are pleased that the collections will be made accessible to a wider audience via NLB's library infrastructure and they hope the collections will benefit the library users.

Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji's collections



**Ms Ngian and Mr Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Mohamad with the token of appreciation from National Library Board**

comprise more than 1,000 publications and more than 500 manuscripts. The manuscripts include notes of his sermons and interpretation of the Qur'an for which he is most respected for in the region of Southeast Asia.

## **About Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji Mohamad**

Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji is a renowned and respected Muslim scholar from Singapore. He was born in August 1922 in Surakarta (Solo), Central Java, Indonesia. His family migrated to Singapore in 1927 and lived in the

vicinity of Jalan Sultan known as Pasir Gembur.

He studied in Madrasah Aljunied and later became a teacher and principal there. He held various positions in the Muslim Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) a body that advises the government on matters relating to Islam in Singapore.

He has produced many works which include the translation and interpretation of the Qur'an into the Malay language. It took him more than 25 years to complete this task and it has been subsequently been republished many times. His instructional book on performing the prayer has also been republished many times and has been translated into other languages such as Korean and Sinhalese.

Ustaz Ahmad Sonhadji is proud that many of his students have held important religious posts in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore. Even though he is already 86 years old, he is still teaching on a weekly basis at Muhajirin Mosque.