



Media Release

Entrepreneurs from diverse industries honoured at The Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2016

Singapore, 04 October 2016 – 16 local entrepreneurs bagged The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2016 at the Award Certificate Presentation Ceremony today. Of which, 9 entrepreneurs were winners of the Established Entrepreneur category and 7 entrepreneurs were named New Entrepreneur of EYA 2016.

Award winners come from a broad range of industries, including IT, logistics, interior design, construction, F&B, service sector and others. One notable winner, Mr Lawrence Koh, owner of iFly Singapore (Skyventure VWT Singapore Pte Ltd), has found a niche in the leisure industry by having a unique recreation centre that provides indoor skydiving simulation. Ms Jenny Tay and Mr Darren Cheng from Direct Funeral Services have also done well with their specialised business in the death care industry.

Mr Thomas Fernandez, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2016 Organising Committee, said, "I am deeply impressed that the EYA 2016 has attracted entrepreneurs from diverse businesses and it is encouraging to know that winners are willing to push themselves beyond limits to achieve big goals. A successful entrepreneur effectively maximises limited resources to grow their businesses and they always look forward to use new technologies to raise productivity. EYA is proud to reinforce and highlight the accomplishments of these entrepreneurs."

"We are very glad to see two new Singaporean citizens coming forward to join EYA this year as well. This includes Mr Ven Chin of GD Group, a Malaysian-born Singaporean, and Ms Lisa Zou of Tong Chiang Group, a native Chinese who has obtained Singaporean citizenship. I greatly affirm their enduring entrepreneurial spirit and their courage to build a business in Singapore."

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Co-organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Rotary Club of Singapore, EYA is into its 28th year of recognising outstanding entrepreneurs. EYA 2016 focuses on business owners who consistently innovate to streamline operations towards a lean workforce, demonstrating quality leadership and vision to rise above obstacles.

“Staying true to this year’s theme of ‘Harness the Power of Many’, the award winners have demonstrated immense effort to weave together different aspects of their business into one successful front. Entrepreneurs that harness the right talent and leverage the power from the advancement of technology will be able to weather through difficult times, transforming challenges into opportunities,” said Mr Alan Tan, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2016 Organising Committee, Rotary Club of Singapore.

Mr Tan also added that EYA is the oldest locally-founded entrepreneurial award in Singapore and it constantly aligns its stringent judging criteria to the current business climate and challenges. Through EYA, business owners can critically re-evaluate their business model to stay relevant to market needs.

OCBC returns as the main sponsor of the Entrepreneurial Award for the 15th year, affirming its commitment to celebrate and honour outstanding entrepreneurship.

Mr Linus Goh, Head, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, “Congratulations to the EYA 2016 Top Finalists Winners who have demonstrated that a strong customer proposition built on passion, hard work and perseverance is the key to success. OCBC’s sponsorship of the Award for the 15th year underscores our commitment to nurturing and supporting our home-grown entrepreneurs and SMEs.”

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016

Established Entrepreneur Category

01	MR TONY NG BOON PHIANG MANAGING DIRECTOR CON-LASH SUPPLIES PTE LTD
02	MR KEVIN LIANG FOUNDER & CEO EPS COMPUTER SYSTEMS PTE LTD
03	MR DENNIS TEO CHOON WEE MANAGING DIRECTOR EVORICH HOLDINGS PTE LTD
04	MR VON LEE YONG MIANG EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN EXPAND CONSTRUCTION PTE LTD
05	MR LEMAN NG CEO IMPERIUM SOLUTIONS PTE LTD
06	MR ALBERT OON MANAGING DIRECTOR SHUN ZHOU HARDWARE PTE LTD
07	MR RAJOO AMURDALINGAM MANAGING DIRECTOR THE NATIONAL FORWARDER (S) PTE LTD
08	MS LISA ZOU XIANGYUN CEO TONG CHIANG GROUP
09	MR LEE CHEE MENG HAROLD FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR XDEL SINGAPORE PTE LTD

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016

New Entrepreneur Category

01	MS IDY TEE WAN JUN & MR CHIA KOK WEI MANAGING DIRECTOR & SALES DIRECTOR CAPITALIZE PTE LTD
02	MS TAY ZHEN NI JENNY & MR CHENG TING KUANG DARREN MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DIRECT FUNERAL SERVICES
03	MR VEN CHIN CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVVE DIRECTOR GD GROUP
04	MR SAM CHEE KEONG MANAGING DIRECTOR HOCK SENG HOE METAL COMPANY PTE LTD
05	MR LAWRENCE KOH FOUNDER & CEO iFLY SINGAPORE

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ABOUT THE AWARD

THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR ~ A ROTARY SINGAPORE-ASME AWARD

Inaugurated in 1989 by the Rotary Club of Singapore, The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) is the oldest Award in Singapore that honours local entrepreneurs who have shown outstanding performance as business owners, be they emerging or established enterprises, in their respective industrial fields.

Upholding the prestige of the Award, the EYA prides itself on the high qualifying criteria, rigorous rounds of site visits and stringent judging processes.

Now into its 28th year, The Entrepreneur of the Year Award continues to build upon its legacy as one of Singapore's most esteemed and established business accolades, whereby Top Entrepreneurs are showcased annually on a platform of national scale. The EYA is also an excellent opportunity to embark on a fulfilling and rewarding Award Journey that spurs business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to aim higher, achieving greater victories in the current business arena.

Vision:

Awarding, recognising and inspiring entrepreneurship in the local SME community.

Mission:

To maintain the highest standards of business in Singapore in the process of uncovering successful entrepreneurs through stringent judging criteria and creating an Award Journey for all participants.

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ABOUT THE AWARD: QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Established Entrepreneur	New Entrepreneur
The Candidate must:	
Have been operating the business for more than 6 years	Have been operating the business for a period of 2 to 6 years
Be a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 21	Be a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 18
Own at least 30% of the Company (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)	Own at least 30% of the Company (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)
Candidate's Company must:	
Have a minimum of 30% local equity	Have a minimum of 30% local equity
Not be a listed company nor a subsidiary of a listed company	Not be a listed company nor a subsidiary of a listed company
Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation	Hold at least 2 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation

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ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

ASSOCIATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

The Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1986 for entrepreneurs, by entrepreneurs. With wide-ranging services and programmes, ASME strives to equip member SMEs with the business knowledge and market opportunities to help them grow their businesses.

ASME, as the champion of a pro-enterprise Singapore, bridges the public and the private sectors to promote a more conducive business environment which facilitates the start-up, growth and development of a larger pool of SMEs. The two ASME flagship awards – the Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the Singapore Prestige Brand Award – are enacted yearly in recognition of SMEs' successes.

ASME will continue to roll out new SME-relevant programmes to enhance its position as THE business association For Entrepreneurs, By Entrepreneurs.

www.asme.org.sg

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ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

The Rotary Club of Singapore was incorporated on 6 June 1930 and will be celebrating its 85th charter anniversary this year.

The objects of Rotary are to:

1. Encourage and foster the ideal of service as a worthy enterprise;
2. Set ethical standards in business and profession; and
3. Promote international peace, goodwill and understanding

Since inception, the Rotary Club has embarked on many national projects:

1. The Rotary Club founded the Singapore Anti-Tuberculosis Association (1947), Trafalgar Rotary School (now known as SILRA) (1951), Spastic Children's Association of Singapore (now known as the CPAS) (1956), Singapore After Care Association (1958), Singapore Association for Retarded Children (now known as MINDS) (1962), Society for the Aged Sick (1968) and Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (1972).
2. Through sponsorship of more than 20 Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs, the Rotary Club groomed many young individuals in its youth leadership programmes. It founded and ran the Computer Literacy Program for Adults (CLPA) from 2001 to 2004, which provided computer skills for adults in community centres.
3. In collaboration with the Singapore Prison Service, the Rotary Club mentored the inmates of The Kaki Bukit Centre Prison School (Rotary Community Corp). In 1958, the Club funded the construction of a hostel for the Singapore After-Care Association.
4. The Club initiated Projects LIFE Thailand (2005-2010) and HELP Nepal (2002-2013), and since 1995, Rotarians and non-Rotarian eye surgeons from Singapore and India have performed operations in India and Cambodia, and funded Eye Centres in Phnom Penh and Pursat. Annually, the Rotary Club will conduct medical missions in Indonesia and the Philippines.

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5. In 1989, the Rotary Club established the annual prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA). Jointly organised with the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises, the EYA was established to acknowledge the accomplishments of local entrepreneurs who epitomise the true meaning of entrepreneurship. In 2009, the Rotary Club initiated the Rotary Youth Social Entrepreneurship Challenge for aspiring young social entrepreneurs in Singapore.

Dedicated to the principles and ideals of Rotary, embedded in its motto “**Service Above Self**”, the Rotary Club of Singapore continues to be an active great-grandfather club to the various Rotary Clubs in Singapore.

www.rotary.org.sg

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ABOUT THE AWARD MAIN SPONSOR

OCBC BANK

OCBC Bank, Singapore's longest established local bank, is the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets. With a network of over 630 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and territories, it is one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. It was also ranked among the world's five strongest banks by Bloomberg Markets for five consecutive years since the ranking's inception in 2011.

OCBC has been supporting SMEs in key markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. Our industrial expertise, strong regional network and innovative banking solutions have helped customers achieve their ambitions across the business life cycle.

Our successful partnerships with SMEs have earned us industrial recognition with the following awards:

- Best SME Bank in Southeast Asia by Alpha Southeast Asia, 2015
- ASEAN SME Bank of the Year by the Asian Banking and Finance, 2011 2015
- Best SME Bank in Singapore by Alpha Southeast Asia, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015

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STARHUB

Infocomms Partner

StarHub is the choice info-communications service provider for businesses and the government in Singapore, where technology and partnerships come together to create solutions for the benefit of our customers.

StarHub's Enterprise Business Group collaborates with leading brands/companies to offer a comprehensive suite of solutions that empowers businesses of all sizes to stay ahead of their game. The group has the capabilities to design, build, operate networks, provide network integration services, as well as cloud solutions.

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CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Media Partner

Channel NewsAsia Singapore was established in March 1999 by Mediacorp and is an English language Asian TV News channel. Positioned to understand Asia, it reports on global developments with Asian perspectives. Channel NewsAsia brings viewers not only the latest news, but also the stories behind the headlines.

Based in Singapore, it has correspondents in major Asian cities and key Western ones including New York, Washington D.C., London and Brussels.

The TV News channel is complemented by an online presence at channelnewsasia.com and social media services like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Channel NewsAsia's other key business is the production of news and current affairs content in four languages: English, Malay, Tamil and Chinese. This content is produced for Mediacorp's television and online platforms, such as mass entertainment Channels 5, 8, U, and niche language channels, Suria and Vasantham.

Mediacorp is Singapore's leading media company with the most complete range of platforms, spanning television, radio, newspapers, magazines, movies, digital and out-of-home media.

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