



Media Release

Kindly observe embargo till 23 November 2016, 2300 hrs

## Four local entrepreneurs clinched title as Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award

**Singapore, 23 November 2016** – Four local entrepreneurs were named Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2016 at the Award Presentation Ceremony held at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry), Mr S Iswaran.

Mr Von Lee Yong Miang, 46, Executive Chairman of Expand Construction Pte Ltd, was the Overall Winner of the Established Entrepreneur Category. Mr Lee founded his company in 2000 and has grown it substantially over the years to be one of Singapore's major homegrown construction groups. His impressive portfolio of completed projects include the renowned S\$130 million Lion Grove Supertrees and Energy Centre at Gardens by the Bay, as well as the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum at the National University of Singapore.

At the ceremony, Mr Ven Chin from GD Group, along with Ms Tay Zhen Ni Jenny and Mr Cheng Ting Kuang Darren from Direct Funeral Services were also named Overall Winners of the New Entrepreneur Category.

Mr Ven Chin, 36, spent time gaining experience in the F&B industry before opening his first restaurant, Gurney Drive Signatures. Building up business momentum, he moved on to develop three other food concepts – Penang Culture, Penang St Buffet and Mamak Culture – under GD Group. Mr Chin is still passionate about creating new food concepts to continue to deliver reasonably priced, authentic Malaysian food to customers.

Likewise, Ms Tay Zhen Ni Jenny, 30, and Mr Cheng Ting Kuang Darren, 31 have shown great passion to push for excellence in the funeral industry. They have incorporated elements of hospitality into their funeral services and have relentlessly pursued accreditations to professionalise the image of their company. Ms Tay and Mr Cheng aims to revamp the way

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the funeral industry is perceived and transform their company into a one-stop provider of all end-of-life planning arrangements.

Co-organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Rotary Club of Singapore, the EYA is one of Singapore's most esteemed and established business accolades where top entrepreneurs are showcased annually on a platform of national scale. The EYA is currently into its 28<sup>th</sup> year honouring and celebrating the achievements of local entrepreneurs.

Mr Kurt Wee, President of ASME, said, "I am very glad to see that Winners of EYA 2016 have demonstrated key qualities that set them apart from their peers in the respective industry fields. The entrepreneurs are passionate for what they do and they are strongly motivated to achieve entrepreneurial success. This is the burning spirit of enterprise that Singapore needs to fuel and strengthen our economy."

"Since the establishment of the EYA in 1989, the Award has recognised 300 local entrepreneurs to date. This is a milestone achievement for the EYA, showing that the Award has a good standing among local business owners and it continues to inspire entrepreneurship in the local SME community," added Mr Wee.

Highlighting the same sentiments, Mr Garry Taylor, President of the Rotary Club of Singapore, said, "I am very heartened to see that Winners of EYA 2016 have actively engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as part of their business practices, giving back to society and helping those in need whenever they can. These entrepreneurs have shown the true spirit of entrepreneurship and their efforts are very commendable."

OCBC Bank returns as the main sponsor of the EYA for the 15<sup>th</sup> year running, affirming its commitment to celebrate and honour outstanding entrepreneurship.

Mr Linus Goh, Head of Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, "As the main sponsor of the EYA for the 15<sup>th</sup> year, we applaud the achievements of this year's winners who have impressed with their enterprising spirit, tenacity and creativity as they continue to thrive in today's challenging and competitive business environment. This year's winners are indeed an

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inspiration to their peers, and we are confident they will leverage this platform and lead the way for the larger SME community as they grow their businesses and scale greater heights.”

- End -

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**WINNERS AT THE EYA 2016 AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

**ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY**

**OVERALL WINNER**

- EXPAND CONSTRUCTION PTE LTD  
MR VON LEE YONG MIANG

**EYA FOR ENTERPRISE**

- EPS COMPUTER SYSTEMS PTE LTD  
MR KEVIN LIANG

**EYA FOR INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY**

- EXPAND CONSTRUCTION PTE LTD  
MR VON LEE YONG MIANG

**EYA FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

- SHUN ZHOU HARDWARE PTE LTD  
MR ALBERT OON

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**WINNERS AT THE EYA 2016 AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

**NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY**

**OVERALL WINNERS**

- DIRECT FUNERAL SERVICES PTE LTD  
MS TAY ZHEN NI JENNY & MR CHENG TING KUANG DARREN
  
- GD GROUP  
MR VEN CHIN

**EYA FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

- DIRECT FUNERAL SERVICES PTE LTD  
MS TAY ZHEN NI JENNY & MR CHENG TING KUANG DARREN

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**THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016**

**WINNERS OF EYA - ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY**

NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION	INDUSTRY
CON-LASH SUPPLIES PTE LTD	TONY NG BOON PHIANG	MANAGING DIRECTOR	MARINE & SHIPPING EQUIPMENT
EPS COMPUTER SYSTEMS PTE LTD	KEVIN LIANG	FOUNDER & CEO	IT SERVICES
EVORICH HOLDINGS PTE LTD	DENNIS TEO CHOON WEE	MANAGING DIRECTOR	FLOORING SERVICES
EXPAND CONSTRUCTION PTE LTD	VON LEE YONG MIANG	EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN	CONSTRUCTION
IMPERIUM SOLUTIONS PTE LTD	LEMAN NG	CEO	TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS & SERVICES
SHUN ZHOU HARDWARE PTE LTD	ALBERT OON	MANAGING DIRECTOR	MARINE HARDWARE
THE NATIONAL FORWARDER (S) PTE LTD	RAJOO AMURDALINGAM	MANAGING DIRECTOR	FREIGHT TRANSPORT
TONG CHIANG GROUP	LISA ZOU XIANGYUN	CEO	F&B
XDEL SINGAPORE PTE LTD	LEE CHEE MENG HAROLD	FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR	LOGISTICS

**THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016**

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**WINNERS OF EYA - NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY**

NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION	INDUSTRY
CAPITALIZE PTE LTD	IDY TEE WAN JUN	MANAGING DIRECTOR	FINANCIAL SERVICES
	CHIA KOK WEI	SALES DIRECTOR	
DIRECT FUNERAL SERVICES	TAY ZHEN NI JENNY	MANAGING DIRECTOR	FUNERAL SERVICES
	CHENG TING KUANG DARREN	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
GD GROUP	VEN CHIN	CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	F&B
HOCK SENG HOE METAL COMPANY PTE LTD	SAM CHEE KEONG	MANAGING DIRECTOR	STEEL PRODUCTS & SERVICES
iFLY SINGAPORE	LAWRENCE KOH	FOUNDER & CEO	LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

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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 28<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>The Candidate must:</b>	
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)
<b>Candidate's Company must:</b>	
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 & 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](http://www.asme.org.sg)

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## ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

### ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

The Rotary Club of Singapore was incorporated on 6 June 1930 and will be celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

Visit [www.starhub.com/business](http://www.starhub.com/business) to find out how we can take your business forward.

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**ABOUT THE OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**CHANNEL NEWSASIA**

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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