

Media Release

Kindly observe embargo till 3 October 2017, 1300 hrs

## Transforming and reinventing relentlessly: 17 business leaders named The Entrepreneur of the Year 2017

Singapore, 3 October 2017 – 17 local entrepreneurs were announced as winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2017 at the Award Certificate Ceremony today. Of which, 11 entrepreneurs were winners of the Established Entrepreneur category and 6 entrepreneurs were winners of the New Entrepreneur category.

The EYA is one of Singapore’s most established business accolades showcasing entrepreneurs on a platform of national scale. The EYA is currently into its 29th year honouring and celebrating the achievements of local entrepreneurs. With the theme “Transform; Reinvent”, EYA 2017 identifies visionary business leaders who continuously transform their business model and seize prospective opportunities for growth.

Mr Thomas Fernandez, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2017 Organising Committee, said, “It is very encouraging to see entrepreneurs showing their strength to transform and adapt to the fast-changing business environment, especially developments in innovation and technology. They have leveraged on digital platforms to build their online presence and chart into new territories, physically as well as virtually. We affirm their entrepreneurial spirit, and their ambition to always pursue a higher level of excellence makes them worthy recipients of the EYA.”

Mr Fernandez added that most entrepreneurs who have secured a strong foundation in the local market have been actively venturing into regional markets to enhance their growth. He pointed out that Mr Jason Lim, Managing Director of Old Street Bak Kut Teh, and Mr Alan Chua, Executive Director of Concorde Security are notable examples.

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Mr Jason Lim was the first entrepreneur that brought *Bak Kut Teh* (a pork rib dish) restaurants to shopping malls, and he currently has 15 restaurant outlets in Singapore, 4 outlets in China, 4 outlets in Indonesia, with plans for further expansion in the pipeline. Similarly, Mr Alan Chua who specialises in technology solutions has launched their *I-Man Facility Sprinter* patented security solution in London in efforts to expand their global footprint and grow to become a dominant player in the security industry.

“The business landscape is evolving very rapidly today. This calls for Entrepreneurs to be sharper, more agile, and more innovative when managing new challenges. The EYA Award Journey has sieved out strong, capable business leaders that have demonstrated these winning traits very well. We are confident that the winners are able to elevate their business to a higher level with the award, and we congratulate their outstanding achievements,” said Mr Alan Tan, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2017 Organising Committee, Rotary Club of Singapore.

OCBC is the main sponsor of the EYA for the 16th year running, affirming its commitment to celebrate and honour outstanding entrepreneurship.

Mr Tan Chor Sen, Executive Vice President, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, “This is already our 16th consecutive year as main sponsor of the EYA, and yet, we continue to be impressed by the innovation, adaptability and can-do spirit of the winners which epitomise true entrepreneurs. It is an honour for us to provide the support they need as they seek sustained growth through the use of technology and by leveraging improved connectivity between markets. We congratulate each winner and wish them continued success as they further contribute to a more vibrant and sustainable economy and promote the Singapore brand name overseas.”

EYA 2017 is privileged to have Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, as its Knowledge Partner.

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Mr Victor Tay, Chief Development Officer, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, said, “NTU is delighted to be associated with EYA. Our shared experiences would enable us to support the national agenda to fulfil the government's drive towards economic transformation by supporting entrepreneurs to deepen and strengthen their technological expertise.”

“In today’s complex and dynamic business environment, harnessing the power of innovation is a differentiating factor to stay relevant and competitive. As a leading institute of global distinction, NTU is committed to delivering more cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions that will enhance and transform the future,” he added.

Aston Martin is the Automotive Partner for the EYA.

Mr Raymond Ng, General Manager, Aston Martin Singapore, said, “The relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation is the key to Aston Martin’s success. We are proud to be the Official Automotive Partner of EYA 2017 who upholds the same values. Aston Martin Singapore congratulates all winners of EYA 2017 on their outstanding achievements.”

Mont Blanc is the Award Sponsor for the EYA.

Mr Benjamin Goh, Senior Marketing Manager, Mont Blanc, said, “Today we are reminded that pushing boundaries and staying innovative is integral for businesses, whether big or small; It was with this very pioneering spirit that the iconic Montblanc Emblem became the ultimate seal of performance, innovation, quality and expression of style. We hope that the winners continue this ongoing mission to create breakthroughs, and soar to greater heights.”

The overall winners for the Established Entrepreneur and New Entrepreneur categories, as well as the winners for the EYA Sub-Category Awards will be announced at the EYA 2017 Award Presentation Ceremony on 23 November 2017.

- END -

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## THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2017

### Winners of the Established Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	ADEMCO SECURITY GROUP PTE LTD	TOBY KOH	GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR
2	CONCORDE SECURITY PTE LTD	CHUA SWEE KHENG	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3	DP DENTAL PTE LTD	DR. YUE WENG CHEU	CLINICAL DIRECTOR
		LOUISA LEE	MANAGING DIRECTOR
4	EXCELTEC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PTE LTD	KOH HOCK SENG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
5	JUSTLOGIN PTE LTD	KWA KIM CHIONG	CEO
6	PASSIONATE LIGHTING GROUP PTE LTD	MICHAEL CHIA HO MENG	GROUP CHAIRMAN
7	RICHZ TECHNOLOGY (S) PRIVATE LIMITED	KAVIN NG YONG HAI	MANAGING DIRECTOR
		ERIC LIM KWEI LUAN	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
8	SINGAPORE MEDICAL SPECIALISTS CENTRE	WENDY HUANG	CEO
9	TIMES SOFTWARE PTE LTD	CHARLES LIAW CHAN CHEE	MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2017

### Winners of the New Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	CIO NETWORK PTE LTD	MOHIT SAGAR	GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
2	HOCK SENG HOE METAL COMPANY PTE LTD	SAM CHEE KEONG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
3	LEACOV SINGAPORE PTE LTD	SIMON NG CHEE CHUANG	CEO
4	MIGHTY JAXX INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD	JACKSON AW	MANAGING DIRECTOR
5	OLD STREET BAK KUT TEH PTE LTD	LIM CHYE TENG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
6	TOP INTERNATIONAL HOLDING PTE LTD	DATO' VICTOR TAN JENN CHYEN	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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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 industry fields.

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

Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, The Entrepreneur of the Year Award continues to build upon its legacy as one of Singapore's most established business accolades where 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 and achieve greater victories in the business arena.

#### Vision:

The Award that recognises and inspires entrepreneurship in the local SME community.

#### Mission:

To maintain the highest standards 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 Entrepreneur must:</b>	
Have been operating the business for 7 years and above	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's shares (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)	Own at least 30% of the Company's shares (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)
Have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial qualities in growing and developing the business	Have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial qualities in growing and developing the business
<b>The Entrepreneur's Company must:</b>	
Have a minimum of 30% local equity	Have a minimum 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

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<p>Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation</p>	<p>Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation          (Companies that have been operating the business for 2 years may submit 2 years of audited financial statements.)</p>
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### ASSOCIATION OF SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (ASME)

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 Singapore Prestige Brand Award – are 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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### ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

The Rotary Club of Singapore was incorporated on 6 June 1930 and will be celebrating its 86<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary this year. The object of Rotary is to promote international peace, goodwill and understanding by fostering the ideals of service and ethics as a worthy enterprise.

Recognising the importance of an accepting and conscientious society for economic progress, the Rotary Club has embarked on many national projects, having founded more than five institutions and associations dedicated to the welfare of the underprivileged and communities in need around Singapore.

Its vision of altruism and philanthropy has also driven the Rotary Club to perform diverse services of charity for a holistic range of social groups. This includes sponsoring youth leadership programmes, running computer literacy programmes for adults, and providing guidance and shelter to prison inmates.

Across national borders, the Club regularly launches international welfare missions to render assistance to less developed countries and sends healthcare personnel to support residents living there.

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 acknowledges the accomplishments of local Entrepreneurs who epitomise the true meaning of entrepreneurship. In line with its inclusive and holistic vision, the Rotary Club initiated the Rotary Youth Social Entrepreneurship Challenge for aspiring young social Entrepreneurs in Singapore in 2009.

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Dedicated to the principles of Rotary embedded in its motto, “**Service Above Self**”, the Rotary Club of Singapore continues to be an active great-grandfather club in promoting international peace, goodwill and understanding throughout Singapore.

[www.rotary.org.sg](http://www.rotary.org.sg)

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## ABOUT THE AWARD MAIN SPONSOR

### OCBC

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 610 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions, it is one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. It is consistently ranked among the World's Top 50 Safest Banks by Global Finance and has been named Best Managed Bank in Singapore and the Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker.

OCBC has been supporting SMEs in key markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Greater China and Myanmar. Our industry 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 industry recognition with the following awards:

- Asia's Best Bank for SMEs by Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2016
- Best SME Bank in Southeast Asia by Alpha Southeast Asia, 2015-2016
- ASEAN SME Bank of the Year by the Asian Banking and Finance, 2011 - 2016
- Best SME Bank in Singapore by Alpha Southeast Asia, 2010, 2011, 2013 – 2016

As a main sponsor of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we remain committed to helping entrepreneurs and SMEs succeed locally and internationally.

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## ABOUT THE AWARD KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

### NANYANG TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY, SINGAPORE

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is the world's fastest rising young university. Having key strengths in engineering, technology and research, NTU is forging ahead as a leading global institute, offering students a holistic education with real-world relevance. NTU has always emphasised on technological innovations and scientific research, as it firmly believes that technological advancements are able to offer new, promising and next-generation solutions that will improve lives and shape the future.

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### ASTON MARTIN

Since 1913, Aston Martin cars have been objects of desire around the world. Not only for the brand's iconic design, but its exceptional engineering and timeless craftsmanship. It's these qualities that make every sports car, grand tourer and four-door model in our line-up the embodiment of Power, Beauty and Soul. In October 2015, Aston Martin Singapore found the perfect partnership with Wearnes Automotive – a trusted name, synonymous with luxury cars and service excellence for over a hundred years.

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### MONT BLANC

Guided by the pioneering spirit since 1906, Montblanc revolutionised the culture of writing with breakthrough innovations. Today, the Maison continues to push boundaries and evolve the expression of fine craftsmanship across each of its product categories: the pinnacle of luxury writing instruments, timepieces, leather goods, accessories, fragrances and eyewear.

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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](http://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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