

Media Release

Kindly observe embargo till 13 June 2017, 1600 hrs

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award returns with strengthened Judging Criteria on Innovation and Technology

Singapore, 13 June 2017 – The search for outstanding Entrepreneurs is on! Co-organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and Rotary Club of Singapore, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) is one of Singapore's most established business accolades where Top Entrepreneurs are showcased annually on a platform of national scale. The EYA is currently into its 29th year honouring and celebrating the achievements of local Entrepreneurs.

This year, in line with Singapore's shift towards digitalisation, the EYA has enhanced the *Innovation and Technology* component under its Judging Criteria for both the Established Entrepreneur and New Entrepreneur categories. Entrepreneurs will be additionally evaluated on how their technological products or services has charted new market, disrupted existing players and differentiate itself from other competitors.

The EYA is proud to have Nanyang Technological University (NTU) as its Knowledge Partner for EYA 2017 to offer a comprehensive perspective on technological innovation, and participating Entrepreneurs are able to leverage on insights by NTU to rethink and reassess how technology is able to transform and reinvent their business. NTU is also the title sponsor for the Sub-Category Award, *EYA – NTU Innovation*.

Mr Thomas Fernandez, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2017 Organising Committee, said, "Finding new niche areas of innovation to forge new grounds forms a major part of every Entrepreneur's journey of enterprise. EYA 2017 creates a platform for Entrepreneurs to discover how technology can better match business needs and even lead to groundbreaking ideas and creations. I strongly urge Entrepreneurs to embark on this fulfilling Award journey to prove their ambition and reaffirm their capabilities."

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The theme for EYA 2017 is **Transform; Reinvent**. As visionary leaders, it is key for Entrepreneurs to have strong foresight to identify prospective opportunities and draw on them to spearhead business. Bold and courageous, Entrepreneurs are able to effectively transform their business model, create real breakthroughs and soar even higher.

“Entrepreneurs have to cope with multiple challenges as they navigate the complex business landscape, and an important quality they must have is a keen vision to spot and seize opportunities for growth. The theme for EYA 2017 fully captures this essence and the Award aims to honour Entrepreneurs who have fully exhibited these capabilities to emerge as exceptional individuals in the industry,” said Mr Alan Tan, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2017 Organising Committee, Rotary Club of Singapore.

The EYA has recognised 300 local Entrepreneurs to date since the establishment of the Award in 1989. The Award seeks to continue uplifting the profile of homegrown Entrepreneurs and inspire entrepreneurial success in the business community.

OCBC Bank returns as the Main Sponsor of the EYA for the 16th consecutive year.

Mr Tan Chor Sen, Head, International, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, “We are privileged to be honouring some of Singapore’s most successful business owners who have contributed to our entrepreneurial economy. Their passion and innovative mindset have helped to drive their business growth and power overseas forays. We look forward to partner with these Entrepreneurs to bring their game-changing solutions to the global marketplace.”

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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 29th 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
The Entrepreneur must:	
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
The Entrepreneur's Company must:	
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
Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation	Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation

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	(Companies that have been operating the business for 2 years may submit 2 years of audited financial statements.)
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ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

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

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ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

The Rotary Club of Singapore was incorporated on 6 June 1930 and will be celebrating its 86th 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.

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

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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 16th 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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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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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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