



Media Release

Kindly observe embargo till 8 October 2019, 1300 hrs

Breaking Boundaries in Entrepreneurship: 10 business leaders named The Entrepreneur of the Year 2019

Singapore, 8 October 2019 – 10 local entrepreneurs were announced as Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2019 at the Award Certificate Ceremony today. Of which, 7 entrepreneurs were Winners of the Established Entrepreneur category and 3 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 in its 31st year of honouring and celebrating the achievements of local entrepreneurs. With the theme “Breaking Boundaries”, EYA 2019 identifies enterprising business leaders who challenge the norm, overcoming restrictions in the business landscape to achieve ground-breaking business goals. This requires entrepreneurs to possess ambition, foresight and adaptability to embrace change and viable opportunities.

Mr Thomas Ting, Committee Member of the EYA 2019 Organising Committee, Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) said, “In today’s age of disruption, it is imperative for entrepreneurs to be game-changers so as to remain at the forefront of the future economy. Our Winners have demonstrated capabilities in breaking boundaries by either transforming their business operations and/or making developments in innovation. Many of them have also made efforts to internationalise their business and expand beyond the Singapore market.”

Mr Alan Tan, Co-Chairman of the EYA 2019 Organising Committee, Rotary Club of Singapore, said, “The Winners whom we are recognising today are not only resilient and resourceful, but have gone above and beyond to strive towards success. By continually adapting, innovating and challenging the status quo, they have worked hard to bring their ideas into fruition. In doing so, they break boundaries to introduce change and value-add to society.”

OCBC is the main sponsor of the EYA for the 18th year running, affirming its commitment to celebrate and honour outstanding entrepreneurship.

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Mr Tan Chor Sen, Head, International, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, "The very best entrepreneurs are not content with repetition. They grow through innovation, and with today's pace of change, they are looking to disrupt rather than to run the risk of being disrupted. Sustainability is also a growing focus for them as they are aware of the impact that their businesses have on the community at large. To me, these are the elements of a boundary breaking entrepreneur and this year's winners are leaders in this regard. A hearty congratulations to them!"

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 2019 Award Presentation Ceremony on 24 November 2019.

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019

Winners of the Established Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	BLACKBOX RESEARCH PTE LTD	DAVID BLACK	MANAGING DIRECTOR & FOUNDER
2	CRAWFORT PTE LTD	JAMES CHEOW	CEO & CO-FOUNDER
		JJOHN CHEOW	CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER & CO-FOUNDER
3	DECKS PTE LTD	CHEE CHOON HIAN	CEO & FOUNDER
4	HOCK SENG HOE METAL COMPANY PTE LTD	SAM CHEE KEONG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
		CHAN LEE YING	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
5	MARUNDA UTAMA ENGINEERING PTE LTD	RACHEL WONG MAI KIM	MANAGING DIRECTOR

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019

Winners of the New Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	BR METALS PTE LTD	FRANK CHEN	MANAGING DIRECTOR
2	DECISION SCIENCE AGENCY PTE LTD	DR COLLIN ANG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
3	REVION GROUND SCHOOL PTE LTD	TOH YOUHAO	MANAGING DIRECTOR

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ABOUT THE AWARD

THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

A ROTARY SINGAPORE-ASME AWARD

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 fields. Now in its 31st year, the EYA is jointly organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Rotary Club of Singapore. The Award prides itself for the high qualifying criteria, rigorous rounds of site visits, and stringent judging process.

The EYA continues to build upon its legacy as one of Singapore's most established business accolades where top entrepreneurs are showcased on a platform of national scale. It 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 success 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 a meaningful Award Journey for all participants.

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ABOUT THE AWARD: QUALIFYING CRITERIA

NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

The New Entrepreneur category aims to recognise fledging Entrepreneurs who demonstrate keen business acumen, innovation and creativity in differentiating their new businesses in the market.

Qualifying Criteria:

(A) The Participant:

- I. Has been operating the business for a period of more than 2 years but less than 7 years
- II. Owns at least 30% of the Company's shares. Candidates who possess less than 30% ownership must submit an endorsement letter from the Company's Board of Directors.
- III. Is a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 18

(B) The Participant's Company:

- I. Has at least 30% local equity
- II. Is not a listed company or a subsidiary of a listed company
- III. Has at least 3 years of financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation. Companies that have been in operation for less than 3 years may submit 2 years of financial statements.

ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

The Established Entrepreneur category aims to recognise veteran businessmen who possess the tenacity and resourcefulness that bring their enterprises to success, while embracing innovation and keeping with the changing business landscape and maintaining a strong foothold in the business arena.

Qualifying Criteria:

(A) The Participant:

- i. Has been operating the business for more than 7 years
- ii. Owns at least 30% of the Company's shares. Candidates who possess less than 30% ownership must submit an endorsement letter from the Company's Board of Directors.
- iii. Is a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 21

(B) The Participant's Company:

- i. Has at least 30% local equity
- ii. Is not a listed company or a subsidiary of a listed company
- iii. Has at least 3 years of financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation

ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

ASSOCIATION OF SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (ASME)

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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 continues 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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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 89th 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 The 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 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 560 branches and representative offices in 19 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:

- Best Small Business Bank by the Asian Banker, 2018
- Myanmar's Best International Bank by Asiamoney, 2018, 2019
- Asia's Best Bank for SMEs by Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2016 – 2017
- Best Bank for SMEs in Singapore by Asiamoney 2017
- ASEAN SME Bank of the Year by Asian Banking & Finance, 2011 – 2018
- Best SME Bank in Southeast Asia by Alpha Southeast Asia, 2013 – 2018
- Best SME Bank in Singapore by Alpha Southeast Asia 2010, 2012 – 2018

As a main sponsor of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the 18th consecutive year, we remain committed to helping Entrepreneurs and SMEs succeed locally and internationally.

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