



Media Release

Three local entrepreneurs named Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award; four entrepreneurs bagged sub-category awards

Singapore, 8 December 2022 – Three local entrepreneurs were conferred Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2022 at the Award Presentation Ceremony held at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. Another four entrepreneurs bagged Sub-Category Awards in Corporate Social Responsibility, Business Resilience, Business Strategy, and Business Innovation and Technology. The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Mr. Edwin Tong.

Mr. Kim Wah Boon, Founder and Group CEO of Dickson Group Pte Ltd, and A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Founder and Director of INEX Innovate Pte Ltd, were named the Overall Winners of the Established Entrepreneur category. Dickson Group is a reputable Automotive Group with over 30 years of history in Singapore, with businesses spanning across pre-owned car sales, leasing solutions, auto financing, insurance and aftersales service centre. INEX Innovate focuses on innovations in molecular diagnostics, - ideating, developing and translating new technologies to address unmet needs in women's and fetal healthcare.

At the ceremony, Mr Ling Ting Ming CEO of OTSAW Digital Pte Ltd, was named Overall Winner of the New Entrepreneur category. Ling Ting Ming founded OTSAW Digital in 2015 and has since spearheaded the company's technological forefront by becoming the first few companies in Singapore to set up base in Silicon Valley to build Autonomous Robots. Over the past years, Ling has successfully expanded his business from Asia to Europe and North America, with its global headquarters located in Singapore.

Managing Director of Hock Tong Bee – Cornerstone Wines, Mr Clinton Ang, was awarded the EYA for Business Strategy in the Established Entrepreneur category. As a family business that has lasted 3 generations and counting, Hock Tong Bee's approach has always been to ensure

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their business has continuity and scalability beyond generations. Today, Hock Tong Bee is no longer just a traditional family-owned business but a dynamic one with corporate strategies and developments in place, making it one of the oldest and largest independent wine and spirit companies in Singapore and an increasingly significant regional player.

A/Prof Mahesh Choolani, Founder and Director of INEX Innovate Pte Ltd, also brought home the EYA for Business Innovation & Technology in the Established Entrepreneur category. INEX Innovate has deployed high-impact new medical technologies that have filled the gap for unmet clinical needs. Dr Choolani was resolved to build INEX Innovate into a company with a strong IP portfolio. It now holds forty-nine patents that focus on improving women's health and wellbeing.

Mr Jeffrey Lee, Founder and Managing Director of Embrace Funeral Services Pte Ltd, received the EYA for Corporate Social Responsibility in the New Entrepreneur category. Embrace Funeral Services are committed to providing the finest quality services where families can rely on during their times of need. Embrace seeks to change the current perception of the celebration of life and death, to spread more compassion and respect within the community. They also provide pro-bono services to assist bereaved families who may need financial support and are struggling to provide a desired funeral service for their loved ones.

Mr Robin Goh, Founder and Managing Director of JNR Entertainment Pte Ltd, received the EYA for Business Resilience in the New Entrepreneur category. The COVID-19 pandemic put many businesses through rigorous strategic resilience tests, and Robin's business was no exception. He was faced with a mass cancellation of physical events. However, he was quick to tackle the challenges presented to him and very quickly pivoted into the virtual events space. JNR Entertainment has now evolved into a holistic company, providing events management and entertainment. Their clientele includes individuals, government agencies, Fortune 500 companies and MNCs.

The EYA is currently into its 32nd year of honouring and celebrating the achievements of local entrepreneurs. Co-organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Rotary Club of Singapore, the Award seeks to continue uplifting the profile of homegrown entrepreneurs, as well as inspire entrepreneurial success in the business community.

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Guest-of-Honour Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, said, “Beyond business excellence, it is encouraging that our award recipients are also striving to be companies that contribute back to the broader society, to be companies of good. We believe that embedding corporate purpose in the DNA of our businesses will lead to better corporate outcomes. At the same time, businesses with corporate purpose will also have values that resonate with employees, and a good company with a stable, committed workforce drives better performance”

Mr Kurt Wee, President of ASME, said, “The EYA recognises entrepreneurs who are forward-thinking and resilient when implementing business strategies. ASME is heartened that the Award has become an esteemed mark of recognition that encourages local entrepreneurs to continually aim towards excellence.

Our winners run successful enterprises. They demonstrated the ability to identify unique business opportunities and turned them into profitable propositions. But it is the challenges they faced during their entrepreneurship journey and how they overcame such challenges, which distinguished one winner from another.”

Mr Tom Wolf, Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Singapore, said, “Winning this year’s EYA is a testament to these entrepreneurs’ leadership, resilience and tenacity as it showed they have overcome difficulties brought about by the restrictions and ever-changing measures to fight COVID-19. Hence, tonight’s winners are role models for other SMEs. Their success stories serve as a learning model and inspire many others in their journey as entrepreneurs. It also heartens me to know that many on their pathway to becoming successful entrepreneurs have also made significant contributions to the community.”

OCBC returns as the Main Sponsor of the EYA for the 19th year running, remaining committed to supporting SMEs and entrepreneurship in Singapore.

Mr Linus Goh, Head, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank, said, “This year’s theme for the EYA, “Strength, Courage, Leadership” appropriately captions the stories of so many entrepreneurs, who have faced head on the uncertainties and challenges of the pandemic. Turning crisis into opportunity as they reinvented and transformed their businesses. We are very

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grateful for our partnership with ASME and rotary club of Singapore for championing entrepreneurs and their business over the years through the EYA. I wish all EYA 2022 winners

continued success not only in their businesses but in supporting and paving the way for others, as we continue to build a stronger ecosystem for SMEs.”

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OVERALL WINNERS AND SUB-CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

OVERALL WINNER

- MR. KIM WAH BOON
DICKSON GROUP PTE LTD

OVERALL WINNER

- A/PROF MAHESH CHOOLANI
INEX INNOVATE PTE LTD

EYA FOR BUSINESS STRATEGY

- MR CLINTON ANG
HOCK TONG BEE – CORNERSTONE WINES

EYA FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

- A/PROF MAHESH CHOOLANI
INEX INNOVATE PTE LTD

NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

OVERALL WINNER

- MR LING TING MING
OTSAW DIGITAL PTE LTD

EYA FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- MR JEFFREY LEE
EMBRACE FUNERAL SERVICES PTE LTD

EYA FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE

- MR ROBIN GOH
JNR ENTERTAINMENT PTE LTD

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

Winners of the Established Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	DICKSON GROUP PTE LTD	KIM WAH BOON, DICKSON	FOUNDER & GROUP CEO
2	DN HYBRID PTE LTD	DESMOND TO	DIRECTOR
		NELSON HAM	DIRECTOR
3	HAKO TECHNOLOGY PTE LTD	GERRY ENG	CEO & CO-FOUNDER
		YUSHO LIU	CTO & CO-FOUNDER
4	HOCK TONG BEE PTE LTD	CLINTON ANG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
5	INEX INNOVATE PTE LTD	A/PROF. MAHESH CHOO LANI	FOUNDER & CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER
6	NEW LIFE GLOBAL PTE LTD	LYNN ZHANG	DIRECTOR
7	PC DREAMS PTE LTD	TAN CHING HWEE	MANAGING DIRECTOR
8	VICTOR YEAP	YEAP MEDICAL SUPPLIES	MANAGING DIRECTOR

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2022

Winners of the New Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	1728 DENTAL PRACTICE	DR AARON TAN	GROUP PRINCIPAL DENTIST
		MS KAREEN KAN	GROUP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2	ABBA OL2 PTE LTD	MDM LI LIN	MANAGING DIRECTOR
3	DECLARATORS PTE LTD	MR JAVIER YIP	MANAGING DIRECTOR
4	EMBRACE FUNERAL SERVICES PTE LTD	MR JEFFREY LEE	MANAGING DIRECTOR
5	FINNEX PTE LTD	MR CHIA KOK WEI	DIRECTOR
6	JNR ENTERTAINMENT PTE LTD	MR ROBIN GOH	MANAGING DIRECTOR
7	LA PARFUMERIE PTE LTD	MR JASON LEE	CEO
8	OTSAW DIGITAL PTE LTD	MR LING TING MING	CEO
9	W CAPITAL MARKETS PTE LTD	MR WAYNE LEE	CEO

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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 on its 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: OVERALL WINNER AND SUB-CATEGORY AWARDS

OVERALL WINNER

Awarded to the deserving participant by the Award Judging Panel. The Overall Winner is an Entrepreneur who has excelled and surpassed his or her peers in all aspects of the Judging Criteria.

EYA FOR BUSINESS STRATEGY

Awarded to entrepreneurs who have presented strategic plans to enhance competitiveness and ensure sustainability in the current business environment.

EYA FOR Business INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Awarded to Entrepreneurs who have effectively leveraged innovative measures and/or technology to improve productivity and profitability within their organisations.

EYA FOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Awarded to Entrepreneurs who have fostered corporate social responsibility programmes, who have adopted greener environmental policies, and who have encouraged employee participation in community service.

EYA FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Awarded to Entrepreneurs who have presented strong resilience and adaptability to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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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 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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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 19th consecutive year, we remain committed to helping Entrepreneurs and SMEs succeed locally and internationally.

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