

## Two local entrepreneurs named Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award; five entrepreneurs bagged sub-category awards

**Singapore, 5 July 2024** – Two local entrepreneurs were conferred Overall Winners of The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2023/24 at the Award Presentation Ceremony held at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. Another five entrepreneurs bagged Sub-Category Awards in Social Contribution, Business Strategy and Innovative Use of Technology. The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance, Mr. Chee Hong Tat.

At the ceremony, Mr. Thong Yong Hin, Managing Director, Inter Island Manpower Pte Ltd, was named the **Overall Winner of the Established Entrepreneur** category. Inter Island Manpower was set up in 2008 to address the lack of blue-collar positions, providing ethical and quality employment solutions to customers. With four offices outside of Singapore, Inter Island Manpower has grown to be able to seek and place talent from across Asia from various industries, from finance to retail.

Additionally, Mr. Lawrence Luan, CEO of Octopus8 Pte Ltd, was named **Overall Winner of the New Entrepreneur** category. Octopus8 is a software provider that helps to automate customer service, technical support, digital services and sales for businesses. With over 30 business-to-business (B2B) contracts, Octopus8 is one of the fastest growing Singapore-based tech companies in the social services sector, with a goal to become the preferred software provider in the social service space.

Mr. Ong Chuan Aik (Ricky), Managing Director of JR Life Sciences Pte Ltd, was awarded the **EYA for Social Contribution, sub-category, in the Established Entrepreneur** category. JR Life Sciences specialises in health supplements and comprehensive care, with a focus on the needs of mothers. Since its establishment, Ricky has placed importance on fostering mutually beneficial relationships with suppliers and clientele and prioritising the well-being of his team and customers.

Ms. Queenie Yang Rong, Founder and Chairperson of JOYRE Group Pte Ltd, brought home the **EYA for Business Strategy, sub-category, in the Established Entrepreneur** category. Joyre Group is a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and holistic well-being business who was hit with unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. During then, Queenie moved the company to provide more essential services like pre and postpartum care, now a staple in their business with a dedicated postpartum centre. One of Queenie's plans for growth is to pursue an Initial Public Offering on the Singapore's Exchange's Board to professionalise the company with strong corporate governance and build a lasting legacy for the brand.

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Mr. Lawrence Luan, Chief Executive Officer of Octopus8 Pte Ltd, also received the **EYA for Social Contribution, sub-category, in the New Entrepreneur** category. Inspired by the positive impact he saw from employment of individuals with disabilities, Lawrence set out to create a company that would benefit clients, employees and shareholders. Octopus8 is built on the core values of altruism, integrity and diligence, which has helped it become one of the fastest growing tech companies for social services in Singapore.

Mr. Wesley Shen Wende, Chief Executive Officer of Skylink Group Holdings Pte Ltd, received the **EYA for Business Strategy, sub-category, in the New Entrepreneur** category. Skylink started as Wesley's determination to revolutionise the vehicle trading and leasing sector. The company faced challenges like securing capital and establishing robust operations amidst seasonal challenges but has grown with Wesley's commitment to leveraging e-commerce and expanding into the passenger vehicle segment, and recently taking on pre-owned vehicles to offer end-to-end solutions, from buying to repair and maintenance.

Mr. Zhang Yitao, Director of Luce Maintenance Group Pte Ltd, received the **EYA for Innovative Use of Technology, sub-category, in the New Entrepreneur** category. Yitao led the digitalisation of operations to Luce Maintenance, after seeing untapped potential beyond its traditional methods. Yitao created the Luce App, which uses an algorithm to match the nearest cleaners with available jobs, and employs workers directly instead of relying on a middleman, resulting in the elimination of extra fees for clients and higher quality standards. Embracing technology helped the company overcome challenges that were brought on by COVID-19, as well as now being able to prioritise employee welfare and ethical practices.

The EYA is currently into its 34<sup>th</sup> 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.

Mr. Ang Yuit, President of ASME, said, "Our EYA 2023/24 winners exemplify resilience and innovation in today's challenging business landscape. Their dedication to overcoming obstacles and pushing boundaries is truly inspirational, serving as a commendable example for all entrepreneurs. These outstanding businesses have not only navigated through economic uncertainties and market fluctuations but have also demonstrated remarkable adaptability and creativity. Their innovative solutions and forward-thinking strategies have enabled them to be where they are today.

At ASME, we're thrilled to witness the evolution of local businesses as they continuously explore new ideas and approaches. This spirit of relentless pursuit for excellence and willingness to try new things is what drives growth

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and success. We are excited to see how these businesses will continue to foster a culture of innovation and resilience that will shape the future of our business community. Finally, we are pleased to observe more SMEs recognizing the importance of ESG strategies, with an increasing number integrating them into their operations. Congratulations once again to all our winners. Your hard work and visionary leadership have truly made a difference, and we look forward to seeing your continued success.”

Maybank joins as the Main Sponsor for this edition of the EYA, as part of a partnership with ASME to provide support to SMEs and entrepreneurs in Singapore.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

**Glenn Lee**

Assistant Manager, Marketing Communications

DID: 6513 0891

Mobile: 8484 4250

Email: [glenn.lee@asme.org.sg](mailto:glenn.lee@asme.org.sg)

**Koh Wen Yu**

Corporate Communications

Mobile: 9618 4954

Email: [wenyu@asme.org.sg](mailto:wenyu@asme.org.sg)

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## OVERALL WINNERS AND SUB-CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

### ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

#### OVERALL WINNER

- MR. THONG YONG HIN  
INTER ISLAND MANPOWER PTE LTD

#### EYA FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- MR. ONG CHUAN AIK (RICKY)  
JR LIFE SCIENCES PTE LTD

#### EYA FOR BUSINESS STRATEGY

- MS. QUEENIE YANG RONG  
JOYRE GROUP PTE LTD

### NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

#### OVERALL WINNER

- MR. LAWRENCE LUAN  
OCTOPUS8 PTE LTD

#### EYA FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- MR. LAWRENCE LUAN  
OCTOPUS8 PTE LTD

#### EYA FOR BUSINESS STRATEGY

- MR. WESLEY SHEN WENDE  
SKYLINK GROUP HOLDINGS PTE LTD

#### EYA FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- MR. ZHANG YITAO  
LUCE MAINTENANCE GROUP PTE LTD

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## THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023/24

### Winners of the Established Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	BR METALS PTE LTD	MR. FRANK CHEN	MANAGING DIRECTOR
2	CIO NETWORK PTE LTD	MR. MOHIT SAGAR	CEO
3	CTES CONSULTING PTE LTD	MS. CHRISTINA TIN	MANAGING DIRECTOR
4	DECLARATORS PTE LTD	MR. JAVIER YIP	FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR
5	FOODNET INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS PTE LTD	DATO' DR CHARLES CHEN D.I.M.P	CHAIRMAN
6	INTER ISLAND MANPOWER PTE LTD	MR. THONG YONG HIN	MANAGING DIRECTOR
7	JOYRE GROUP	MS. QUEENIE YANG RONG	FOUNDER & CHAIRPERSON
8	JR LIFE SCIENCES PTE LTD	MR. RICKY ONG	MANAGING DIRECTOR
9	KIM HUA GUAN FOOD INDUSTRIES PTE LTD	MR. NG THIAM BENG	DIRECTOR
10	LADY RAFFLES INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD	MS. GINA LIM	MANAGING DIRECTOR
11	SIG TAX & ACCOUNTING PTE LTD	MS. SHEENA GUAN XIN XIN	FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
12	TTS GROUP PTE LTD	MR. KELVIN FOO YONG KIANG	MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2023/24

### Winners of the New Entrepreneur Category

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION
1	FT CONSULTING PTE LTD	MR. WINSTON CHAN	CEO
2	HURRY GENERAL CONTRACTOR PTE LTD	MR. LOO RUI YI	DIRECTOR
3	LUCE MAINTENANCE GROUP PTE LTD	MR. JASON ZHANG	DIRECTOR
4	OCTOPUS8 PTE LTD	MR. LAWRENCE LUAN	CEO
5	SKYLINK GROUP HOLDINGS PTE LTD	MR. WESLEY SHEN	CEO
6	TMR MEDIA PTE LTD	MS. JUSMIN TAN	DIRECTOR & CMO

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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 34<sup>th</sup> 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 CONTRIBUTION

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.

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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](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 89<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 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](http://www.rotary.org.sg)

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## ABOUT THE AWARD MAIN SPONSOR

### MAYBANK

Maybank is the fourth largest financial institution group in ASEAN by assets. With strategically located banking branches and over 2,000 employees in Singapore, Maybank is well-positioned to provide highly personalised services and locally-oriented solutions that will deliver more value to customers.

As at 31 December 2023, Maybank's total assets in Singapore were approximately S\$80.26 billion. It has been ranked the Best Bank in Asia Pacific and Singapore by The Banker in 2023; and the number one domestic bank in Malaysia for trade finance, according to the Euromoney Trade Finance survey in 2024.

Maybank Singapore is one of the Group's largest overseas operations and a Qualifying Full Bank in Singapore. As part of the Maybank Group which has an established presence in all 10 ASEAN countries, our corporate and retail customers are able to leverage our vast network for their banking needs.

Our mission of Humanising Financial Services guides us in continuously developing solutions to support SMEs beyond just funding. Our goal is to reimagine the SME banking customer journey by understanding their pain points and creating agile solutions.

To further strengthen our support to the SME community in Singapore, Maybank entered into a strategic partnership with the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) in December 2023. The partnership harnesses Maybank's extensive financial expertise and ASME's deep understanding of SME challenges to deliver targeted financial solutions, capacity-building programs, and exclusive access to resources that empower SMEs to thrive.

Our dedication to supporting SMEs in Singapore has been recognised across the industry, and we are proud to have been awarded:

- Best Digital CX – Account Opening and Customer Onboarding (SME Banking)' at The Digital Banker Digital CX Awards 2024
- Winner - Excellence in SME Banking' at the Global Retail Banking Innovation Awards 2020
- Highly Acclaimed - Excellence in SME Banking' at the Global Retail Banking Innovation Awards 2019

Maybank strives to be the go-to partner for SMEs to propel their business growth and ambitions, and continues to be inspired by the unwavering trust and support from our customers to reach new heights.

<https://www.maybank2u.com.sg/>

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## ABOUT THE AWARD SILVER PARTNER

### BEST WORLD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Established in 1990, Best World International Limited proudly stands as Singapore's premier home-grown corporation, specialising in the development, manufacture and distribution of premium skin care, personal care, beauty, health, and wellness brands. Our portfolio includes renowned brands like DR's Secret, Avance, PentaLab, Optrimax, and Margaret Dabbs London.

Since our inception, we have expanded to become a key player in the beauty, health, and wellness industry, with subsidiaries, joint ventures, and associate companies spanning across 12 markets, and serving customers in more than 50 markets across Asia, Australasia, the Middle East, North America, and Europe.

At Best World, our dedication to excellence has garnered us numerous prestigious accolades and certifications across various domains, such as:

- DSN Global 100 Awards 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 for Best World Lifestyle
- ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems Certification
- CSA Cybersecurity Certification - Cyber Trust Mark
- Singapore Prestige Brands Award 2023 for DR's Secret

Beyond exceptional products and brands, our commitment lies in the growth and success of our team and partners. Best World has received recognition from Great Place to Work since 2022, underscoring the importance we place in creating a supportive environment which champions personal and career development for all our employees.

Our ethos of fostering entrepreneurship amongst our distributors is rooted in our dedication to supporting them in achieving global presence and empowering them to achieve their business goals in a harmonious culture.

Guided by this vision, we are honoured to be the Silver Partner for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2023/24.

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