

Thursday, December 08, 2022

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS



Inaugurated in 1989, The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) is the oldest Award in Singapore recognising outstanding local entrepreneurs. The prestige of the Award is upheld through strict standards set in the selection and judging processes. The stringent judging also identified areas that entrepreneurs could work on to achieve corporate excellence.

The Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (ASME) and Rotary Club of Singapore, continue to build upon the legacy of EYA as one of Singapore's most esteemed and established business accolades. The EYA is also an excellent opportunity for new entrepreneurs to embark on a fulfilling and rewarding journey that will spur them on to greater heights.

Our EYA 2022 winners have exhibited the fine qualities of an entrepreneur. Commitment, perseverance and creativity are some essential qualities that entrepreneurs must possess as they continue to develop in their entrepreneurial journeys. These entrepreneurs have broken through boundaries present in their industries to attain this accolade. Compelled by the desire to turn their visions into reality, these entrepreneurs have invested their hard work, determination and creativity to change and make a significant impact in society.

Established Entrepreneurs Category

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



Kim Wah Boon, Dickson
Founder & Group CEO
Dickson Group Pte Ltd



Nelson Ham
Director
DN Hybrid Pte Ltd



Desmond To
Director
DN Hybrid Pte Ltd



Yusho Liu
CEO & Co-Founder
Hako Technology Pte Ltd



Gerry Eng
CTO & Co-Founder
Hako Technology Pte Ltd



Clinton Ang
Managing Director
Hock Tong Bee Pte Ltd



Mahesh Arjandas Choolani
Founder & Director
Inex Innovate Pte Ltd



Zhang Man
Director
New Life Global Pte Ltd



Tan Ching Hwee
Founder & Managing Director
PC Dreams Pte Ltd



Victor Yeap
Managing Director
Yeap Medical Supplies Pte Ltd

New Entrepreneurs Category

The New Entrepreneur category aims to recognise fledgling entrepreneurs who have demonstrated keen business acumen, innovation and creativity in differentiating their new businesses from the market.



Aaron Tan
Clinical Director
1728 Dental Group
Pte Ltd | MBFP



Kareen Kan
Director
1728 Dental Group
Pte Ltd | MBFP



Li Lin (Mrs Ong Lin)
Director
Abba Oil Pte Ltd |
Kei Kaisendon



Jeffrey Lee Yi Fu
Founder & Managing Director
Embrace Funeral Services



**Chia Kok Wei
(Xie Gouwei)**
Founder & CEO
Finnex Pte Ltd



Robin Goh Guo Hua
Founder & Managing Director
JNR Entertainment Pte Ltd



Jason Lee
CEO
La Parfumerie |
Scent By Six



Ling Ting Ming
CEO
OTSAW Digital Pte Ltd



Wayne Lee
Chairman & CEO
W Capital Markets Pte Ltd



Javier Yip Yu Wai
Managing Director
Declarators Pte Ltd

CO-ORGANISERS



MAIN SPONSOR



SUPPORTING ORGANISATION



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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2022
A ROTARY SINGAPORE-ASME AWARD

Winners of the
Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022

Award Category: New Entrepreneur

Awardee	Designation	Company
Dr Aaron Tan Kareen Kan	Clinical Director Director	1728 Dental Practice
Javier Yip Yu Wai	Managing Director	Declarators Pte Ltd
Jeffrey Lee Yi Fu	Founder & Managing Director	Embrace Funeral Services
Chia Kok Wei (Xie Gouwei)	Founder & CEO	Finnex Pte Ltd
Robin Goh Guo Hua	Founder & Managing Director	JNR Entertainment Private Limited
Li Lin (Mrs Ong Lin)	Director	Abba OL2 Pte Ltd
Jason Lee	CEO	Scent by SIX (La Parfumerie Pte Ltd)
Ling Ting Ming	CEO	OTSAW Digital Pte Ltd
Wayne Lee	CHAIRMAN & CEO	W Capital Markets Pte Ltd

Award Category: Established Entrepreneur

Awardee	Designation	Company
Yusho Liu Gerry Eng	CEO & CO FOUNDER CTO & CO FOUNDER	Coinhako (Hako Technology Pte Ltd)
Clinton Ang	Managing Director	CornerStone Wines (Hock Tong Bee)
Kim Wah Boon, Dickson	Founder & Group CEO	Dickson Group Pte Ltd
Nelson Ham Desmond To	Director Director	DN Hybrid Pte Ltd
Zhang Man	Director	New Life Global Pte Ltd
Mahesh Arjandas Choolani	FOUNDER & DIRECTOR	INEX Innovate Pte Ltd
Tan Ching Hwee	Founder & Managing Director	PC Dreams Pte Ltd
Victor Yeap	Managing Director	Yeap Medical Supplies Pte Ltd

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THE STRAITS TIMES | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2022 A ROTARY SINGAPORE-ASME AWARD

Firms stay nimble and find success amid the pandemic

The 2022 Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognises SMEs that have weathered through the tough business environment of the past two years

BY LIN JIASHENG

Businesses have been hit hard during the past two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. Public health measures, business restrictions, supply chain issues, tight labour conditions and weakened demand have all shaken up business operations.

These challenges have forced Singapore's entrepreneurs to roll with the punches and adapt their enterprises to seek success, even in this period of multiple disruptions. The most agile and resourceful of these entrepreneurs will be celebrated tonight at the annual Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) held at The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore.

Turning crisis into opportunity

The theme for EYA 2022 is "Leadership, Courage, Strength". The award recognises small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have found ways to tackle the disruptions and uncertainty in their business operations brought about by an adverse business environment.

"Running a business is not only about passion. Successful leaders are also able to turn crises into opportunities, leveraging the strengths they have built over the years," noted Mr Tan Chor Sen,

who heads the international division at OCBC Bank, which sponsors the EYA.

Now in its 32nd edition, the EYA recognises finalists from a diverse range of sectors, including medical clinics, events management, financial technology (fintech), food supply and automation technology. Mr Alan Tan, the award co-chairman from the Rotary Club of Singapore, highlighted how SMEs are crucial to Singapore's

While our EYA 2022 participants have showcased their ability to weather

uncertainties and achieve business excellence, they also desire to contribute back to the community. This is the hallmark of an admirable entrepreneur – one who courageously turns challenges into opportunities, achieves success in the local business community, and gives back to society."

Mr Kurt Wee Chorng Kien
PRESIDENT,
ASSOCIATION OF
SMALL & MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES



economy. "SMEs make up the majority of all enterprises in Singapore, and it is evident that local entrepreneurs play an integral role in contributing to the economy."

Surviving and thriving amid adversity

Both established businesses and new enterprises are recognised at EYA 2022. A common thread linking the winners is how they dealt with pandemic challenges in bold and unconventional ways.

Mr Thomas Fernandez,
the award co-chairman

from the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (Asme), said: "In today's age of disruption, it

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Mr Alan Tan
AWARD CO-
CHAIRMAN,
ROTARY CLUB
OF SINGAPORE



is imperative for entrepreneurs to be game changers, to go beyond conventions and remain at the forefront of the economy. Entrepreneurs must possess the ambition and foresight to drive the expansion of their organisation's capabilities and transform business processes."

Difficult business conditions motivated some companies to leverage technology to reduce costs and bring greater value to their customers. These technologies included teleconferencing, automation and more efficient medical diagnostic tools.



The Covid-19 pandemic brought about many challenges and businesses had to be quick to adapt to survive the disruption. PHOTO: SPH MEDIA

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THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2022 A ROTARY SINGAPORE-ASME AWARD



The winners of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2022 at the certificate ceremony in October 2022. The most agile of these entrepreneurs will be celebrated tonight during the annual award ceremony. PHOTO: ASSOCIATION OF SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

What is EYA?

- The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) is the oldest entrepreneur award in Singapore, and seeks to recognise and inspire entrepreneurship in the SME community.
- Inaugurated in 1990, the award is now in its 32nd year.
- The award is jointly organised by the Association of Small & Medium Enterprises (Asme) and the Rotary Club of Singapore, and sponsored by OCBC Bank.
- Nominees are put through a highly selective process that comprises stringent qualifying criteria and site visits.
- The award comprises one overall winner from a shortlist of winners, and winners in four sub-categories: Business Strategy, Business Resilience, Business Innovation and Technology, as well as Corporate Social Responsibility.

Despite contractions reported in many sectors of the economy, the most innovative SMEs found new and niche markets that emerged during the pandemic. The shift to working from home drove up sales for a company making home aromatherapy kits. Another entrepreneur took his cue from the growing e-commerce market and set up a company specialising in providing declaring agents to fulfil customs regulations.

Finding time to give back

Although they were facing their own difficulties, many companies remained committed to social

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Mr Thomas Fernandez
AWARD CO-CHAIRMAN,
ASSOCIATION OF
SMALL & MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES



causes. Asme president Mr Kurt Wee Chorng Kien was impressed with how businesses were able to contribute, even in a time of adversity and hardship.

"While our EYA 2022 participants have showcased their ability to weather uncertainties and achieve business excellence, they also desire to contribute back to the community. This is the hallmark of an admirable entrepreneur – one who courageously turns challenges into opportunities, achieves success in the local business community, and gives back to society," said Mr Wee.

Running a business is not only about passion. Successful leaders are also able to turn crises into opportunities, leveraging the strengths they have built over the years."

Mr Tan Chor Sen
HEAD, INTERNATIONAL
GLOBAL COMMERCIAL
BANKING, OCBC BANK



The EYA Gala Dinner will resume after two years of hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions. The award ceremony will be attended by Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law.

The award organisers look forward to hosting the winners and congratulate them for their outstanding achievements.

Scan here or visit
www.eya.com.sg to
find out more about the
winners of EYA 2022.

