

**SPEECH BY MR REINHARD KLEMMER, AWARD CO-CHAIRMAN, ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE,  
DELIVERED AT THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2015 PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY,  
14 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE VANDA BALLROOM, MARINA MANDARIN SINGAPORE**

1 Mr Kurt Wee  
President, ASME

Mr Alan Tan  
President, Rotary Club of Singapore

Mr Thomas Fernandez  
Co-Chairman, Award Organising Committee

Mr Linus Goh  
Head, Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank

Our media partners,

Distinguished Guests,

Winners of EYA 2015,

Ladies and gentlemen,

2 Thank you for joining us this morning.

3 First of all, congratulations to all 16 remarkable entrepreneurs that have made it this far.

4 Like what my Co-Chairman said earlier, what separates an entrepreneur from a dreamer is that, an entrepreneur has an undying drive to reach his or her ambitions, by overcoming countless challenges.

- 5 Indeed, EYA has witness the recognition of not only the business and financial success of an entrepreneur, but celebrates the ambitious spirit of the entrepreneur and honours the entrepreneur's journey, often a good example of resilience.
- 6 Take a look at the current president of my Rotary Club, Mr Alan Tan, who won the EYA back in 2013. Hungry for challenge and wanting to step out of his comfort zone to pursue his own ambition, he boldly left his job and started his own catering company – Rasel Catering. Unfazed by the initial objections from his family and tough beginnings, he pushed through and today, Rasel Catering has grown to become a well-established caterer in Singapore.
- 7 Another entrepreneur that displayed an ambitious spirit is Mr Sim Eng Tong, CEO of green technology company Biomax Technologies, who achieved the Award last year. Mr Sim has been in business for over 30 years, overcoming challenges as big as even declaring himself bankrupt, but he did not give up on his ambition to be a thriving entrepreneur. Driven by his ambition, he pushed on and eventually incorporated Biomax Technologies which has revolutionised the global organic waste treatment industry with its innovative breakthrough technology.
- 8 Regardless of the nature of their business, our EYA Winners past and present, are united in their firm passion for their business. The determination they display in weathering storms, financial difficulties and other challenges, to fulfil their visions and ambitions is setting a great example for the next generation to follow. I am proud that another 16 outstanding entrepreneurs have joined us today.
- 9 Before I end, I would like to extend my appreciation to our Co-Organiser ASME, for their dedication and tireless support to EYA. You have been a great partner.
- 10 I would also like to thank OCBC Bank, the Award main sponsor, for 14 years of enduring support to the EYA.

- 11 To our sponsors: Official Whisky – Chivas Regal; Infocomms Partner – Starhub and Official Media Partner – Channel News Asia; as well as our supporting organisations: IDA Singapore, IE Singapore, SPRING Singapore and the Institute of Chartered Accountants, thank you for your continuous strong support to the Award.
- 12 Last but not least, congratulations to all 16 Winners of EYA 2015 once again. You have worked hard to build your business and on behalf of the Award Co-Organisers, I wish you all the best in the final round of judging.
- 13 Thank you and have a good day ahead.