

Media Release

Kindly observe embargo till 10PM

Chairman and CEO of railway construction firm is Entrepreneur of the Year

Mr Kitnasamy S/O Marudapan, Gates PCM Construction Ltd: Overall Winner of Established Entrepreneur category

Mr Chiang Zhan Xiang, Pezzo Singapore Pte Ltd, together with Mr Frank Phuan and Mr Lawrence Wu, Sunseap Group Pte Ltd: Overall Winners of the New Entrepreneur category

Singapore, 27 November 2015 – The 30 years of hardwork and effort of Mr Kitnasamy S/O Marudapan paid off today as he bagged the coveted Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2015.

Mr Kitnasamy, 58, was announced the Overall Winner in the Established Entrepreneur category at the EYA 2015 presentation ceremony held at Ritz Carlton. The evening was graced by Minister for Manpower Mr Lim Swee Say, where he spoke to over 500 SME owners and industry leaders.

As Singapore's oldest entrepreneurial award, co-organised by the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (ASME) and the Rotary Club of Singapore, the EYA marks its 27th year and has since recognised over 250 entrepreneurs.

Commenting on the importance of entrepreneurship in Singapore today, Mr Kurt Wee, President of ASME said, *"Entrepreneurs are a national asset in any economy today. Besides introducing innovative products and services that can improve the lives of our people, entrepreneurs play a key role in job creation. In recent months, a highly talked about topic is the transition towards a manpower-lean economy and creating jobs of the future. This places the role of entrepreneurs and SMEs, who hire 70 per cent of our local workforce on a much higher level."*

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Despite facing numerous objections in the beginning, Mr Kitnasamy was adamant of becoming an entrepreneur. In 2000, he founded Gates PCM Construction Ltd with the aim to brand the company as the railway specialists.

Today, the company deals with the construction and maintenance of track works associated with the local MRT and LRT systems. Besides strengthening the company's position in Singapore, Mr Kitnasamy is also looking at expanding the company's services to regional countries.

For the first time, the award saw two Overall Winners in the New Entrepreneur category. They are Mr Chiang Zhan Xiang, Founder of Pezzo Singapore Pte Ltd, and Mr Frank Phuan and Mr Lawrence Wu, Co-Founders and Directors, of Sunseap Group Pte Ltd.

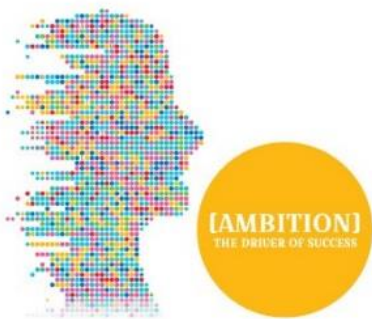
Mr Chiang, 30, founded Pezzo Singapore Pte Ltd in 2012, when he saw the need to create a unique pizza-eating experience. Today, he has grown the business to include over 25 outlets in Singapore and aims to operate more than 50 outlets by end of 2015.

Mr Frank Phuan, 39 and Mr Lawrence Wu, 39, co-founded Sunseap Leasing Pte Ltd in 2011 with the ambition to proliferate the use of solar energy in South East Asia. Today, Sunseap Group, the parent company seeks to retain its leading position in Singapore's solar energy scene.

"Like the saying, 'When the going gets tough, the tough gets going', it illustrates the challenging business environment today and yet the winners continue to thrive and inspire the young. Their efforts and initiatives to contribute back to society are commendable and gained the reputation of holistic entrepreneurs," said Mr Alan Tan, President of the Rotary Club of Singapore.

After months of interviews, appraisals and judging to assess the entrepreneurs on both qualitative and quantitative standards, the conclusive list of Overall Winners and Sub-Category Award Winners have emerged.





NEW ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

OVERALL WINNERS

- PEZZO SINGAPORE PTE LTD
MR CHIANG ZHAN XIANG
- SUNSEAP GROUP PTE LTD
MR FRANK PHUAN & MR LAWRENCE WU

EYA FOR SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- B9 DENTAL CENTRE
DR RAYMOND LOW

EYA - THE VENTURE

- SUNSEAP GROUP PTE LTD
MR FRANK PHUAN & MR LAWRENCE WU

ESTABLISHED ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

OVERALL WINNER

- GATES PCM CONSTRUCTION LTD
MR KITNASAMY S/O MARUDAPAN (KRISHNA)

EYA FOR ENTERPRISE

- FEINMETALL SINGAPORE PTE LTD
MR SAM CHEE WAH

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Marking its return as the main Sponsor of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the 14th year, OCBC remains committed to supporting SMEs and entrepreneurship in Singapore.

Mr Linus Goh, Head of Global Commercial Banking, OCBC Bank said, *“Every successful business, whether emerging or established, needs a visionary and dedicated leader who can steer the team through challenges to achieve greater success in the global marketplace. This quality is evident in this year’s winners who have also impressed with their adaptability and enterprising spirit which will go towards building a more vibrant entrepreneurial environment in Singapore. We at OCBC congratulate this year’s outstanding entrepreneurs and celebrate their achievements.”*

- End -

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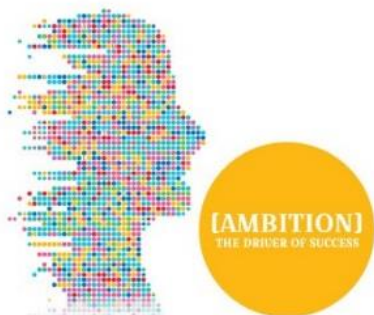


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WINNERS OF THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2015

	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION	INDUSTRY
Established Entrepreneurs	ADVANCE TECH AUTOMATION PTE LTD	NEO GIM CHYE	DIRECTOR	PRECISION ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING
	ATELIER TANG PTE LTD	KORENE TANG	DIRECTOR	INTERIOR DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE
	BEE CHOO ORIGIN	CHEAH BEE CHEW	DIRECTOR	MANUFACTURING/HAIRDRESSING
	FEINMETALL SINGAPORE PTE LTD	SAM CHEE WAH	GENERAL MANAGER	MANUFACTURING/ELECTRONICS
	GATES PCM CONSTRUCTION LTD	KITNASAMY S/O MARUDAPAN [KRISHNA]	CHAIRMAN & CEO	RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION
	KUPPS & SACHS PTE LTD	KUPPUSAMY SELVARAJ	FOUNDER & CEO	ENGINEERING/OIL AND GAS
	RICO ENGINEERING WORKS PTE LTD	JEFFREY PIAK BOON PIN	DIRECTOR	ENGINEERING/ FIRE PROTECTION SOLUTION
	SEOUL GARDEN GROUP PTE LTD	LEE SIEW LING ANDREW	CEO	F&B
	VALVES.COM PTE LTD	WONG SENG KEE	CEO	SEVERE SERVICE CONTROL AND ISOLATION VALVES – OIL AND GAS/MINING

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	NAME OF COMPANY	NAME OF ENTREPRENEUR	DESIGNATION	INDUSTRY
New Entrepreneurs	AMPLITUDE INC. HOLDINGS PTE LTD	LEE RONG XIAN, REGINA	MANAGING DIRECTOR	DISTRIBUTION – FMCG
	B9 DENTAL CENTRE	DR. RAYMOND LIM	DENTAL SURGEON/ DIRECTOR	DENTAL
	CLARITI HEARING PTE LTD	RONALD PANG	MANAGING DIRECTOR	HEALTHCARE – HEARING
	HONGYE GROUP PTE LTD	FU XIAO WEI	DIRECTOR	HUMAN RESOURCE
	PEZZO SINGAPORE PTE LTD	CHIANG ZHAN XIANG	FOUNDER	F&B
	SUNSEAP GROUP PTE LTD	PHUAN LING FONG FRANK	CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR	SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
		WU JUEH MING LAWRENCE	CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR	SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

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ABOUT THE AWARD

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

Inaugurated in 1989 by the Rotary Club of Singapore, 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 industry fields.

Upholding the prestige of the Award, EYA prides itself for the high qualifying criteria, rigorous rounds of site visits and stringent judging processes.

Now in its 27th year, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award continues to build upon its legacy as one of Singapore's most esteemed and established business accolades where Top Entrepreneurs are showcased annually on a platform of national scale. EYA 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 victories 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 an Award Journey for all participants.

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ABOUT THE AWARD

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Established Entrepreneur	New Entrepreneur
The Candidate must:	
Have been operating the business for more than 6 years	Have been operating the business for the period of 2 to 6 years
Be a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 21	Be a Singaporean or Permanent Resident above the age of 18
Own at least 30% of the Company (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)	Own at least 30% of the Company (Endorsement from the Board of Directors is required for candidates with less than 30% ownership)
Candidate's Company must:	
Have a minimum of 30% local equity	Have a minimum of 30% local equity
Not be a listed company nor a subsidiary of a listed company	Not be a listed company nor a subsidiary of a listed company
Hold at least 3 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation	Hold at least 2 years of audited financial statements, which must be submitted for evaluation

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ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

ASSOCIATION OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

The Association of Small and 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 will continue 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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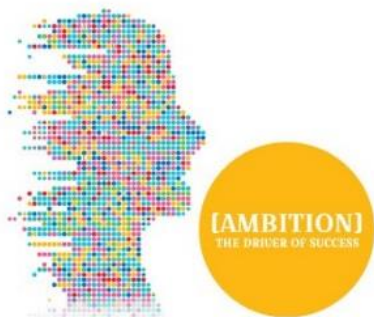


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ABOUT THE AWARD CO-ORGANISERS

ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

Rotary Club of Singapore was incorporated on 6 June 1930 and will be celebrating its 84th charter anniversary this year.

The objects of Rotary are to:

1. Encourage and foster the ideal of service as a worthy enterprise
2. Set ethical standards in business and profession; and
3. Promote international peace, goodwill and understanding

Since inception, the Rotary Club has embarked on many national projects:

1. The Rotary Club founded the Singapore Anti Tuberculosis Association (1947), Trafalgar Rotary School (now known as SILRA) (1951), Spastic Children's Association of Singapore (1956), Singapore After Care Association (1958), Singapore Association for Retarded Children (now known as MINDS) (1962), Society for the Aged Sick (1968) and Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (1972).
2. Through sponsorship of more than 20 Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs, the Rotary Club groomed many young individuals in its youth leadership programmes. It founded and ran the Computer Literacy Program for Adults (CLPA) from 2001 to 2004, which provided computer skills for adults in community centres.
3. In collaboration with the Singapore Prison Service, the Rotary Club mentored the inmates of The Kaki Bukit Centre Prison School (Rotary Community Corp). In 1958, the Club funded the construction of a hostel for the Singapore After-Care Association.
4. The Club initiated the Project LIFE Thailand (2005-2010) and HELP Nepal (2002-2013) and since 1995, Rotarians and non-Rotarian eye surgeons from Singapore and India have performed operations in India and Cambodia and funded Eye Centres in Phnom Penh and Pursat. Annually, the Rotary Club will conduct medical missions in Indonesia and Philippines.

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5. In 1989, the Rotary Club established the annual prestigious The Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA). Jointly organised with the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, EYA was established to acknowledge the accomplishments of local entrepreneurs who epitomise the true meaning of entrepreneurship. In 2009, the Rotary Club initiated the Rotary Youth Social Entrepreneurship Challenge for aspiring young social entrepreneurs in Singapore.

Dedicated to the principles and ideals of Rotary, embedded in its motto “**Service Above Self**”, the Rotary Club of Singapore continues to be an active great-grandfather club of the various Rotary Clubs in Singapore.

www.rotary.org.sg





ABOUT THE AWARD MAIN SPONSOR

OCBC BANK

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 620 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions. These include more than 330 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and more than 90 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macau under OCBC Wing Hang. It is one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank has been ranked Asean's strongest bank and among the world's five strongest banks by Bloomberg Markets for five consecutive years since the ranking's inception in 2011.

OCBC has been supporting SMEs in key markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. 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 SME Bank in Southeast Asia, 2015, Alpha Southeast Asia
- Best SME Bank in Singapore, 2010, 2011, 2013-2015, Alpha Southeast Asia
- ASEAN SME Bank of the Year, 2011-2015, Asian Banking & Finance
- Best SME Bank in Indonesia, 2014 & 2015, Asian Banking & Finance
- Best SME Bank in Malaysia, 2014, Asian Banking & Finance
- Best SME Bank in Singapore, 2012-2015, Global Banking & Finance Review
- Best SME Bank in Malaysia, 2014 & 2015, Global Banking & Finance Review
- Best SME Bank in Indonesia, 2014 & 2015, Global Banking & Finance Review

As the main sponsor of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the 14th consecutive year, we remain committed to helping entrepreneurs and SMEs succeed locally and internationally.

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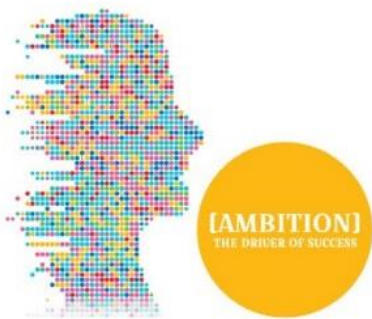


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Launched in 1909, Chivas Regal is the world's first luxury whisky and is considered a timeless classic, renowned for its style and substance. Brotherhood, generosity, entrepreneurship and integrity are values at the heart of Chivas Regal. Over the years, the brand has been hosting its successful and long-running Live with Chivalry campaign, which has inspired Modern Gentlemen around the world to pursue success with integrity and to Win the Right Way. The Chivas Regal range includes Chivas 12, Chivas 18, and Chivas 25.

STARHUB

Infocomms Partner

StarHub is the choice info-communications service provider for businesses and government in Singapore, where technology and partnerships come together to create solutions for the benefit of our customers.

StarHub's Enterprise Business Group collaborates with leading brands/companies to offer a comprehensive suite of solutions that empowers businesses of all sizes to stay ahead of their game. The group has capabilities to design, build, operate networks, provide network integration services, as well as cloud solutions.

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