

1 July 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004 PRESENTATION CEREMONY 4 JULY 2004 AT THE ISTANA

Top Commonwealth honours for Singaporean youths to be presented for the first time

Six individuals and two teams will be conferred the nation's highest youth accolade by the Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean, at the Presentation Ceremony of the Singapore Youth Awards (SYA) 2004 on Sunday, 4 July 2004, at the Istana. Two individuals will also receive the SYA Medal of Commendation, an award that is launched in conjunction with the SYA 30th anniversary this year. **For the first time too, a group of youths will be receiving the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award at the SYA Award Ceremony.**

2 The SYA is the highest youth accolade in Singapore, given to individuals or teams who have significantly achieved excellence and contributed to society. The SYA Medal of Commendation marks a step further in that it aims to recognise and commend past SYA recipients who have achieved, contributed and inspired youths at significantly higher levels after their Award. Please refer Annex A for the list of the award winners.

3 This year, Singapore is also the proud winner of the top regional honours for community service, with the Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club (NTU WSC) receiving the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award for its excellence in community service and in promoting the spirit of volunteerism among youths. The NTU WSC was one of four winners selected from 14 youth groups that were nominated for the annual Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards. This Award is judged in London, UK, by High Commissioners and leading Commonwealth civil society organisations. The NTU WSC was a SYA (team) award winner for the Community and Youth Services in 1999. You may refer to Annex B for more information on NTU WSC and the Award.

4 We would like to cordially invite the Media to the SYA Presentation Ceremony on 4 July 2004. The programme is attached at Annex C. We would also be glad to arrange interviews with the Award recipients. **Due to stringent requirements at the Istana, we would appreciate if you could fax or email the RSVP form with details on your full name, IC number, and MITA-issued Press Accreditation Card number by 2 July 2004 (5pm).**

The media release is transmitted via telebox by the Corporate Communications Section of the National Youth Council. For further information, please contact:

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SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004**AWARD RECIPIENTS****LEE HUEI MIN**
Arts and Culture

Ms Lee Huei Min is a gifted, 21-year-old violinist who has made a mark locally and internationally. Ms Lee has demonstrated "excellence" with a heart through her outreach efforts to other youths and fundraising efforts amounting to more than \$5 million for various charities.

THE HUQIN QUARTET
Arts and Culture
(Team)

The Huqin Quartet is the Chinese orchestral music equivalent of The T'ang Quartet (who also won the Singapore Youth Award in 2002). The Huqin Quartet was the first Chinese bowed string quartet in the world. The team members have individually reached out to the wider community through their work with schools and Community Clubs.

LEE HONG CHUANG
Community and Youth Services

Mr Lee Hong Chuang is appointed as Chairman of the PAYM Central Youth Council. On top of galvanising corporate volunteerism in Hewlett Packard, Mr Lee has combined his passion for gymnastics with community service through his work with the Singapore Amateur Gymnastics Association. Mr Lee is also a Member of the Eighth National Youth Council.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE SHARITY GIFT BOX
Community and Youth Services
(Team)

Fully volunteer-driven, the BB Sharity Gift Box was launched in 1988 and has annually involved over 7,000 volunteers to man the collection booths, and to sort, pack and deliver the gifts to more than 120 voluntary welfare organizations and 3,000 individuals under the Public Assistance Scheme.

The late Dr Tay Eng Soon, Senior Minister of State for Education, had described the BB Sharity Gift Box as the 'mother of all boxes', as it inspired corporations and organizations to introduce similar gift boxes during the other festive seasons.

CHARLES WONG MUN HWA
Entrepreneurship

Mr Charles Wong founded the shoe-retailing business, "Charles & Keith", with his brother, Keith, with a starting capital of \$100,000 after obtaining his GCE 'O' Levels in 1996. The company's estimated turnover in 2003 was \$20 million. The homegrown brand is visible and highly regarded by youths.

DR CHEW FOOK TIM
Science and Technology

Dr Chew Fook Tim runs a leading, world-class research laboratory in NUS dealing with allergies caused by dust mites and other allergens. Dr Chew has nurtured many international research scientists who sought attachments with his laboratory to learn about the pioneering work done in identifying the genes of allergy-causing dust mites.

DR ONG SOH KHIM
Science and Technology

Dr Ong Soh Khim specialises in life-cycle engineering. She was the first woman in ASEAN to be awarded the prestigious M. Eugene Merchant Outstanding Young Manufacturing Engineer Award 2004 by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, based in the United States.

Mr JAMES WONG TUCK YIM
Sports and Adventure

Mr James Wong was a seven-time gold medalist at the South East Asian Games, and was recently named Sportsman of the Year 2004 by the Singapore Sports Council. Mr Wong is also involved in training disabled athletes on a voluntary basis.

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004**MEDAL OF COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS****MR KENNY YAP KIM LEE****Entrepreneurship**

Mr Kenny Yap is the Executive Chairman and CEO of Qianhu Corporation Ltd. He steered Qianhu to a listing on the Singapore Exchange in 2000, and has continued to garner local and regional accolades for his business excellence after being conferred the SYA Award in 1998.

DR BENEDICT TAN CHI'-LOONG**Sports and Adventure**

Dr Benedict Tan was a multiple-Asian Games gold-medalist in sailing. Dr Tan has continued to contribute to the sporting community at significantly higher levels after his SYA Award in 1995. He has been a sports patron in disability sports for the past five years, and sits in the Singapore High Performance Sailing Committee and the SNOC Athletes Commission. He is also a Member of the Eighth National Youth Council.

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) supports the activities of Commonwealth governments investing in young people through the development of policies and programmes which address enterprise, health and environmental issues. The objective is to establish and strengthen youth ministries and independent youth networks to support policy and programme development based on the active participation of young men and women.

CYP Asia Centre, which is based in India, assists the seven Commonwealth governments in the region to formulate policies and programmes for youth development, working collaboratively with governments, young people and other stakeholders.

About the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award

The Commonwealth Youth Gold Award was started in 1985 to recognize the efforts of young people (aged 15 to 29) who develop their communities by creating innovative and sustainable development projects. The projects are evaluated on the participation of young people in identifying, planning, implementing and monitoring the project. Other criteria include gender balance, sustainability and innovation.

Each year, CYP gives up to five Commonwealth Youth Silver Awards in each of its region – Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the South Pacific. The Silver Award winners are then nominated for the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award. Judged in London, UK, by High Commissioners and leading Commonwealth civil society organizations, one Gold Award is given in each region. The panel of judges for the 2003/2004 Gold Awards met at the Commonwealth Secretariat on 2 and 4 June 2004, to decide on the regional winners.

In 2004, four Gold Awards have been given to youth groups from the four regions of the CYP in recognition of their contributions to the development of their communities. The four winners were selected from 14 youth groups nominated for the pan-Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards.

The 2004 regional Gold Award winner for Asia is Camp Outreach by the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Welfare Services Club (WSC), a Singapore Youth Award (Team) recipient for Community and Youth Services in 1999.

The last time Singapore won the award was in 1998, when Raleigh Operasi Batam, a project by Raleigh Society, also a SYA (Team) recipient in the Community and Youth Services category, received the region's top honour for its contribution to society.

About National Technological University Welfare Services Club

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Welfare Club (WSC) was a Singapore Youth Awards (Team) awardee in 1999 for its continuous efforts and support in reaching out to the less privileged and for spreading the spirit of volunteerism amongst students. The Club was started in 1985 with only 18 enthusiastic students involved in community service. All matriculated students of NTU are members of the Club. Currently, the Club has a membership of around 12,000, of which 600 are active.

In 1997, the NTU WSC was awarded the "Contribution to the Hearing Impaired Community Award" by the Singapore Association for the Deaf. The Club also won the "Students Community Service Awards" organised by the Rotary Club of Singapore in 1998. In the same year, the Club was conferred the top honour of the Diamond Award by the Singapore Association for the Deaf, for continuous services rendered to the local hearing impaired community.

About Camp Outreach

Camp Outreach is a yearly NTU WSC project that focuses on the hearing impaired community. It endeavours to realise each hearing-impaired young person's potential by developing his/her leadership qualities and integrating him/her into society.

The objectives of the project are:

- (a) to develop each individual hearing impaired person's potential;
- (b) to bring out leadership qualities in them;
- (c) to help them overcome their disabilities and reach out further;
- (d) to instil confidence in them;
- (e) to help them integrate into society;
- (f) to try more adventurous and challenging activities that they have never tried;
- (g) to acquire other practical skills of life.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
SUNDAY, 4 JULY 2004, THE ISTANA**

PROGRAMME

3:15pm

Arrival of Media for Photography/Filming of Recipients

4:00pm

Arrival of Guests

5:00pm

Arrival of RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean
Minister for Defence

The National Anthem

Speech by Mr Tan Yam Pin, BBM
Chairman, Singapore Youth Award Panel

5:20pm

Presentation of Singapore Youth Awards 2004

Citations read by Mr Douglas Foo
Recipient of SYA (Entrepreneurship), 2003

Presentation of Commonwealth Youth Gold Award 2004

5:45pm

Reception and Viewing of Exhibits at the Banquet Hall

MEDIA RSVP**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2004
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
SUNDAY, 4 JULY 2004, THE ISTANA**

Full Name: _____

Designation: _____

NRIC Number: _____

MITA-issued Press Accreditation Card Number: _____

Company Name: _____

Dress Code: Formal

Please fax this form to 6836 2473 by 2 July 2004, 5pm. You may contact Ms Leong Phei Phei, Executive Officer (Corporate Communications), National Youth Council, for further enquiry.