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NEWS RELEASE

Editors / Programme Managers

HIGHEST NATIONAL HONOURS FOR YOUTH

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006

Drive and passion in pursuits of excellence; traits shared by six individuals and one team who will be conferred the nation's highest youth accolade by Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Defence, at the Presentation Ceremony of the Singapore Youth Awards (SYA) 2006 to be held on Sunday, 2 July 2006 at the Istana. The SYA honours youth whose distinction in their fields of endeavour and service to the community are inspirational.

2 The SYA 2006 will be awarded as follows:

- (a) Arts and Culture
 - i) Mr Tan Chee Lay
- (b) Community and Youth Services
 - ii) Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen
 - iii) Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM) (Team)
- (c) Entrepreneurship
 - iv) Mr Vikas Goel
- (c) Science and Technology
 - v) Dr Yeo Yee Chia
- (d) Sports and Adventure
 - vi) Dr Kua Harn Wei
 - vii) Mr Ronald Susilo

3 This year, two individuals and one team will also be conferred the Medal of Commendation. They are Mr Eric Khoo, Professor Wong Lim Soon and the Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club, who won the SYA for Arts and Culture in 1999, for Science & Technology in 1999 and for Community and Youth Services (Team) in 1999 respectively. More information on this year's Award and Medal of Commendation recipients is at Annex A.

4 Launched in 1975, the SYA recognises the outstanding achievements and contributions by exemplary youth in Singapore, in five award categories:

- (a) Arts and Culture;
- (b) Community and Youth Services;
- (c) Entrepreneurship;
- (d) Science and Technology; and
- (e) Sports and Adventure.

5 A media briefing, followed by a Question-and-Answer session with this year's recipients and the SYA Panel, will be held on **Tuesday, 27 June 2006, 10.00 am, at the Conference Room (Level 2)**, National Youth Centre, 113 Somerset Road.

6 You are cordially invited to the media briefing. We would appreciate it if you could RSVP your attendance by **26 June 2006 (5 pm)** to Ms Christina Ching at 6839 9122 (DID) or 9876 9237 (Hp).

The news 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 2006
RECIPIENTS**

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MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Arts and Culture

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
ARTS AND CULTURE**

MR TAN CHEE LAY

"Choose your love...Love your choice."

An exceptional writer and educator who has also gone the extra mile to mentor youths, opening up the worlds of Literature and the Arts to them. This is Mr Tan Chee Lay.

A versatile and prolific young Chinese writer, Chee Lay works in many genres, and also engages in cross-genre writing, including lyrical plays and prose-poetry.

He was among the first to bridge textual literature with theatrical performance with the staging of a performance literature in August 2005. In 2006, Chee Lay initiated the "Singapore Literary Archive", a multimedia, multilingual and multigenre digital literature archive to record the vibrant and multicultural nature of the local literary scene.

Deserving special mention is Chee Lay's instrumental role in establishing the bilingual "Singapore Student Literary Award", the numerous school-based "Artist-in-Residence Programmes" and the "Hwa Chong Literary Series" which publish books by student writers. Through these initiatives, youths were brought closer to the Arts and their talents recognised.

To help young people appreciate Chinese language and literature, Chee Lay employed youth-friendly platforms like email and SMS to help youths voice their fears and share their thoughts. Described by a student as "a teacher with the greatest impact in her learning journey", perhaps the most evident display of his influence was his call to his students to critically examine his collection, "To Sir with Love". From this, students were able to enhance their confidence in their critical and creative voices.

Although accorded numerous prestigious international and local awards for his outstanding talent and contributions, the ever humble Chee Lay attended, as a student, many classes conducted by his colleagues. His positive attitude left an indelible impression on his students, inspiring them to greater heights of learning.

For his literary brilliance and unwavering dedication in fuelling passion for the Arts in youths, Mr Tan Chee Lay is conferred the Singapore Youth Awards 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES**

MS EUNICE ELIZABETH OLSEN

“It should not only be about the achievements you’ve made, but the lives that you’ve made a difference to. For that, is the greatest achievement of all.”

Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen has always made time for volunteer work. Actively involved in the community, her voluntary services included performing as a pianist for charity, to conducting grooming lessons for younger girls.

As a counsellor, Eunice worked with “youth-at risk” viz the Toa Payoh Girls’ Home from 2000 to 2004 and the Andrew and Grace Home for troubled teens since 2002. She also volunteered at the Eurasian Association from 2001 to 2003 and currently serves as a committee member on the Kebun Baru Youth Executive Committee, which is part of the People’s Association Youth Movement (PAYM). She is also actively involved in PAYM’s sister organisation – T-Net Club – that helps teenagers between the ages of 11 and 16 develop their creativity.

In 2005, Eunice spoke and participated at many events such as the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre Conference, and the Singapore Volunteer Corps Camp. She also became ambassador for the Red Cross National Blood Programme, National Library and Beyond Social Services.

In the same year, she started ‘Water for Living, Books for Learning’ – a humanitarian project to build libraries and provide water-filtration systems to orphanages and schools in Cambodia, Laos and Kalimantan. This has now become the flagship project of ‘Knowledge in Developing Societies (KIDS)’, an organisation she co-founded.

Eunice also serves as a member on various committees such as the Citibank-YMCA Youth-For-Causes Committee and the Council for Formation of Alumni for Girl’s and Boy’s Home.

In 2005, as a Nominated MP, Eunice had a national platform to serve the community and reach out to the youth of Singapore.

For her dedication to the community and youth work and being an inspirational role model, Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES (TEAM)**

MALAY YOUTH LITERARY ASSOCIATION (4PM)

"Youth are our assets and we succeed and grow because we personify the values of "unite and serve" - our motto; in each and every individual."

The Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM) has a history that spans more than half a century. In 58 years, it has built a niche for itself, constantly adapting and adjusting to the needs of the community. 4PM started with a focus on engaging youth in meaningful activities in the community and has progressed to developing youth holistically in the spirit of volunteerism.

Being volunteer-driven since their formation, 4PM now has an outreach of 22,000 youths and a pool of 300 to 400 active volunteers. Through various collaborations with schools, government, private, and other community-based organizations, 4PM also reaches out to youth of all races.

4PM's Students Support Programme, targeted at under-privileged students, has also expanded over the last five years. This further led to the formation of the Reading Support Programme, aimed at improving the literacy rate among youth.

Another signature project - Project Bestari ITE (bITE), is a partnership project supported by the National Council of Social Service. Project Bestari is a youth developmental programme for Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students to enable them to excel both academically as well as cultivate positive personal qualities.

4PM's belief in helping youths acquire a global mindset has also encouraged their members to participate in programmes such as the National Youth Forum and in regional outreach programmes.

For its commitment to develop youths holistically and excellence in youth development in line with its motto of "unite and serve", the Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM) is conferred the Singapore Youth Award (Team) 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

MR VIKAS GOEL

“I often say that the difference between a dreamer and a visionary is success. My message to today’s youth is: Dream, pursue that dream with passion, put in your 100%, stay focused and persistent, success will automatically follow.”

The success of Mr Vikas Goel is one of the most impressive entrepreneurship stories in Singapore in recent years.

Born into a wealthy family in India, Vikas left home for Singapore at the age of 26 to work in Sim Lim Square. He quit a month later and spent two weeks distributing copies of his resume from office to office till he found a job as a sales coordinator with a computer parts distributor. Since then, Vikas has risen to be one of the top names in the IT Industry.

In 2000, Vikas founded eSys Technologies Group, a component and Hard Disk Drive (HDD) distribution company. Under his leadership, eSys has grown to become the world’s largest hard disk drive distributor with a quarter of the global market share and more than 112 offices in over 33 countries.

eSys has grown rapidly since inception with revenue reaching USD 2 Billion in 2005.

Vikas was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Singapore in 2005 for his exceptional entrepreneurial talent. Vikas had earlier received the Indian Entrepreneur Award in 2004.

Despite his busy schedule, Vikas finds time to share his success story with young students at the National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University. eSys is also currently in talks with Changi Prison to provide vocational training for inmates to help them integrate into the mainstream on their release.

For his entrepreneurial spirit and being an inspirational role model, Mr Vikas Goel is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

DR YEO YEE CHIA

“Science and technology offers immense opportunities for exercising our creativity and innovativeness. Turning the promise of science and technology into new possibilities and useful applications improves lives and makes the world a better place to live in. Join us on this exciting and challenging journey in science and technology!”

Dr Yeo Yee Chia is well known as an expert in the field of Nanoelectronics. His remarkable innovation of high speed transistors by tweaking the atomic spacing in silicon has led to a large boost in the performance of electronic devices. His research findings have been widely recognised, evident by the invitations to train regional engineers and to speak at numerous international conferences and lectures.

Dr Yeo’s passion for research started as a student researcher in the British Telecommunications Laboratories in the United Kingdom. He was awarded his first U.S. patent in 2002 for research on the “Method of Forming a Transistor with a Strained Channel”. Since then, 29 more U.S. patents have been awarded in 2004 and 2005 for his inventions, with a total of 306 patents filed in the U.S., Taiwan, China, Japan and Singapore.

After obtaining a First Class Honours degree and the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal for being the best Electrical Engineering graduate at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 1996, he went to the University of California, Berkeley, on a NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship. During his postgraduate years, he contributed to several important technological breakthroughs, including the world’s first dual metal-gate transistors and the world’s first strained ultra-thin body transistors.

As an educator, Dr Yeo shares his enthusiasm in science with young people by linking forefront technology research with education through project-based learning. To date, he has conducted regular training sessions for more than 490 engineers in the Singapore semiconductor industry. This year, he organised the First Annual Workshop on Nanoelectronics to facilitate interaction and research collaborations for some 150 students, professors and researchers from universities and A*STAR research institutes.

In addition, he gives his time to mentor students under his charge and to spur them in the field of engineering.

For his scientific excellence, leadership and dedication to inspire and empower youths, Dr Yeo Yee Chia is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
SPORTS AND ADVENTURE**

DR KUA HARN WEI

'Refrain from self-labeling and break away from traditional constraints. Learn from multiple sources. Absorbing what's useful and creating what is essentially our own enable us to reinvent ourselves and redefine our limits!'

Fourteen years ago, Dr Kua Harn Wei started participating in the triathlon (1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run). In 1997, he participated in his first Ironman (3.8km swim, 180km cycle and 42.2km run), held in Hawaii.

In 2003, Dr Kua took part in the Double Ironman (twice the Ironman distance) World Championship and was ranked 8th. He became the first Singaporean to complete a Double Ironman.

In 2005, Dr Kua competed in the Quintuple Ironman (five times the Ironman distance) World Championships held in Mexico. He completed the race in a new Asian record of 4 days and 13 hours to finish 9th overall. His outstanding performance moved him to the 6th position in the current International Ultra Triathlon Association world ranking.

Dr Kua also excelled academically. Under the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Postgraduate Scholarship, he obtained his first Masters degree in theoretical physics. Subsequently, under the NUS Overseas Postgraduate Scholarship, he obtained two other Masters degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); one in Technology & Policy and another in Civil & Environmental Engineering. To top it off, Dr Kua recently earned a doctorate degree in Building Technology from MIT.

Despite his studies and hectic training schedule, Dr Kua still finds time to give back to society. From 1995 to 1998, he designed a sports programme and trained boys from the Singapore Boys' Home. He also mentored the NUS Biathlon Team and introduced systematic and progressive training for them. In addition, Dr Kua did construction projects in Tanzania, Africa, while he was studying in MIT.

For redefining limits and being an inspiration role model, Dr Kua Harn Wei is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
SPORTS AND ADVENTURE**

MR RONALD SUSILO

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little bit extra."

Mr Ronald Susilo is a local sports hero. His name has become synonymous with Singapore badminton. His motto - perseverance and resilience - saw him rise from a school boy to a full time national sportsman.

In 1993, he came to Singapore, after being talent spotted in Indonesia. Through determination and hard work, he won the Under-17 National Schools Championships in 1995 and 1996.

After completing his 'O'levels, Ronald decided to pursue his love for badminton and in 1998, signed up as a professional player with the Singapore Badminton Association (SBA).

In 2002, he represented Singapore, as a Singapore Citizen, in the Commonwealth Games where he clinched a mixed team silver. In the following year, he was one of the top 16 players in the Men's Singles at the World Championships.

In 2004, Ronald scored his first major Men's Singles title when he emerged Champion in the prestigious Japan Open. He also created one of Singapore's most memorable Olympic moments when he beat the world number one player, Lin Dan from China, in the Athens Olympic Games. Subsequently, he progressed to the last eight in the Men's Singles competition.

In the same year, he reached the semi-finals of the All-England Championships, becoming the first Singaporean in 37 years to do so, and was ranked sixth in the world.

Despite Ronald's busy training schedule, he finds time to coach at the Singapore Open Coaching clinic and in various other schools. He also participated in the President's Star Charity to raise funds for the needy.

For his dedication and inspirational record of sporting excellence, Mr Ronald Susilo is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

MR ERIC KHOO

“It's all about passion, faith and determination. Never give up if you truly believe in something and just go for it.”

Mr Eric Khoo was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Arts and Culture in 1999 for his outstanding contributions to the local film industry.

An influential and promising local film-maker then, Eric has since conquered new heights. In a mere 15 days, Eric directed and shot his film *Be With Me* - a sophisticated tale about love, life and hope, which received a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival and an array of prestigious international and local awards.

Eric's contributions in focusing the world's eyes onto Singapore's outstanding film are indisputable. Having outshone 799 other international entries, his critically acclaimed film *Be With Me* opened the prestigious Director's Fortnight category at the 58th Cannes International Film Festival in 2005. The film went on to secure the Sabam Prize for Best Screenplay at the Flanders Film Festival and received the FIPRESCI International Critics' Prize for Best Film at the Stockholm International Film Festival 2005. In the same year, he won the Best Director awards at the Brussels Festival of Independent Film and the Torino Film Festival.

Eric's contributions to the local community extend beyond film-making. He initiated the *Be With Me* Scholarship Fund, which is administered by the Asian Women's Welfare Association Therapy and Educational Assistance for Children in Mainstream Education (AWWA TEACH ME). The Fund aims to provide educational scholarships to physically disabled youths attending local tertiary institutions who excelled academically and display potential of making a significant difference in society.

Eric's devotion to his passion and success in drawing recognition to local films have indeed inspired many youths to pursue their hearts' call.

For achieving, contributing and inspiring youths at significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, Mr Eric Khoo is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

**NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
WELFARE SERVICES CLUB**

"Take a simple step towards volunteering, show compassion towards the needs of others and discover yourself."

Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club (NTUWSC) was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Community and Youth Services in 1999 for the active promotion of community service and spirit of volunteerism among the students.

Since then, NTUWSC has continued to play an active role in the community and youth services.

NTUWSC has injected new and innovative elements into their signature projects such as 'Project Ignite!' and 'Challenge Your Limit!', which provides young people with many ways of volunteering.

Fund-raising projects such as 'Charity Bang' and 'Red Nose Day' also reflected their extensive community outreach, touching the lives of participants and beneficiaries such as the Handicapped Welfare Association, Singapore Association for the Deaf, Jervois Special School and various Family Service Centres.

NTUWSC has also raised Singapore's international profile by serving the overseas community. In 2001, the team co-organised 'Initiate Laos' with the Singapore International Foundation and People's Association Youth Movement. The team has also organised overseas projects in India, Thailand and Taiwan from 2004 to 2005.

In 2004, NTUWSC received the prestigious Commonwealth Youth Gold Award, which recognises outstanding achievements of young people who develop their communities by creating innovative and sustainable development projects.

For their continual achievements, as well as contributions to the community and youth development at significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, the Nanyang Technological University Welfare Services Club is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2006.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

PROFESSOR WONG LIM SOON

“Good judgment comes from experience, experience comes from bad judgment. So be a hero and do what has to be done, when it needs to be done, fear not the consequences.”

Professor Wong Lim Soon was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Science and Technology in 1999 for his international contributions to database theories and the development of the Kleisli query system, which won him the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors’ Gold Award.

Since then, he has continued to excel in bioinformatics where he discovered novel data mining methods. His ground-breaking development of a system that enables doctors to diagnose and better treat acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in young patients won him an Asian Innovation Gold Award by the Far Eastern Economic Review in 2003. In the same year, he co-founded the Association of Asian Societies for Bioinformatics (AASBi) in Tokyo, a collaboration with the bioinformatics societies in Australia, Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

Prof Wong also produced one of the most accurate prediction systems for identifying protein translation initiation sites in genomic DNA and co-developed one of the first solutions to extract protein-/gene-interaction information from literature. In 2004, he was ranked 40th “best nurturer” of computer science research by the Indian Institute of Science in a technical study based on more than 50,000 computer science researchers.

In 2005, Prof Wong was conferred a full professorship by the National University of Singapore, 11 years after obtaining his PhD.

Prof Wong’s passion has inspired many – students, teachers, parents and businessmen - to pursue their interest and research in bioinformatics, biocomputing and genome informatics. Internationally, Prof Wong has also been invited to share his knowledge and research findings as keynote speaker at numerous symposiums and workshops.

For achieving, contributing and inspiring youths at significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, Professor Wong Lim Soon is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2006.

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD**新加坡杰出青年奖****INFORMATION ON THE SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD PANEL 2006-07**

1. Name : Mr Tan Yam Pin, BBM
 Chinese Characters : 陈炎斌
 Appointment : Chairman
 Singapore Youth Award Panel
 Designation : Member
 Public Service Commission

2. Name : Mr Lee Suan Hiang, PPA(P), PPA(E), PBS
 Chinese Characters : 李瑞显
 Appointment : Chairman
 Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
 (艺术与文化委员会)
 Designation : Chief Executive Officer
 National Arts Council

3. Name : Professor Leo Tan Wee Hin, PPA(E), PBM, BBM
 Chinese Characters : 陈伟兴
 Appointment : Chairman
 Community and Youth Services Advisory Committee
 (社区与青年服务委员会)
 Designation : Director
 National Institute of Education

4. Name : Professor Tan Teck Meng
 Chinese Characters : 陈德明
 Appointment : Chairman
 Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee
 (企业委员会)
 Designation : Professor of Accounting
 Singapore Management University

Annex B

5. Name : Professor Chong Tow Chong
Chinese Characters : 张道昌
Appointment : Chairman
Science and Technology Advisory Committee
(科学与科技委员会)
Designation : Executive Director
Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC)
Agency for Science, Technology & Research
6. Name : Mr Oon Jin Teik
Chinese Characters : 温仁德
Appointment : Chairman
Sports and Adventure Advisory Committee
(体育与探险委员会)
Designation : Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Sports Council
7. Name : Mr Foong Hin Cheong
Chinese Characters : 冯显昌
Appointment : Secretary
Singapore Youth Award Panel
Designation : Director
National Youth Council

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2006
FACT SHEET ON THE RECIPIENTS

AWARD

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Name | : | Mr Tan Chee Lay |
| Chinese Characters | : | 陈志锐 |
| Age as of 1 January 2006 | : | 32 |
| Occupation | : | PhD Candidate, Chinese Studies,
St. John's College, University of
Cambridge, UK |
| 2. Name | : | Ms Eunice Elizabeth Olsen |
| Chinese Characters | : | 欧生优丽 |
| Age as of 1 January 2006 | : | 28 |
| Occupation | : | Free Lance Host/Musician |
| 3. Name | : | Malay Youth Literary Association (4PM) |
| Chinese Characters | : | 马来青年文化协会 |
| Team Representatives | : | Mr Suryakenchana Bin Omar
Honorary Treasurer |
| | | Mr Mustafa s/o Izzuddin
Management Committee Member |
| 4. Name | : | Mr Vikas Goel |
| Age as of 1 January 2006 | : | 35 |
| Occupation | : | Managing Director
Global Business Insights (GBI) |
| 5. Name | : | Dr Yeo Yee Chia |
| Chinese Characters | : | 杨育佳 |
| Age as of 1 January 2006 | : | 34 |
| Occupation | : | Assistant Professor
Department of Electrical and Computer
Engineering
National University of Singapore |
| 6. Name | : | Dr Kua Harn Wei |
| Chinese Characters | : | 柯涵为 |
| Age as of 1 January 2006 | : | 34 |
| Occupation | : | Teaching Assistant
National University of Singapore |

Annex C

7. Name : Mr Ronald Susilo
 Chinese Characters : 林羽峰
 Age as of 1 January 2006 : 25
 Occupation : Badminton Player

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

1. Name : Mr Eric Khoo
 Chinese Characters : 邱金海
 Age as of 1 January 2006 : 40
 Occupation : Director

2. Name : Professor Wong Lim Soon
 Chinese Characters : 黄任祥
 Age as of 1 January 2006 : 40
 Occupation : Professor of Computer Science &
 Pathology
 National University of Singapore

3. Name : Nanyang Technological University
 Welfare Services Club
 Chinese Characters : 南洋理工大学社会福利志愿服务俱乐部
 Team Representatives : Mr Ho Yeyi Elvin
 何也宜
 President
 Mr Koh Kam Jie
 许凯杰
 Vice-President
 Mr Chen Qingwei
 陈庆玮
 Vice-President
 Ms Ho Lianya
 何廉雅
 Assistant Honorary Treasurer