



*Embargoed till 1 July 2009, 12.00 pm*

24 June 2009

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **HIGHEST NATIONAL HONOURS FOR YOUTH**

#### **SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009**

Drive and passion in pursuits of excellence; traits shared by the six individuals who will be receiving the nation's highest youth accolade from Professor S. Jayakumar, Senior Minister and Co-ordinating Minister for National Security, at the Presentation Ceremony of the Singapore Youth Award (SYA) 2009 to be held on Sunday, 5 July 2009 at the Istana. The SYA honours youth whose distinction in their fields of endeavour and service to the community are inspirational.

2           The SYA 2009 will be awarded to the following individuals and teams:

- (a)   Arts and Culture
  - i)     Mr Ho Tzu Nyen
  - ii)    Mr JJ Lin
  
- (b)   Community and Youth Services
  - iii)   Ms Lina Chong Lin Lin
  
- (c)   Entrepreneurship
  - iv)    Mr Clinton Ang

- (d) Science and Technology
  - v) Dr Tong Joo Chuan
- (e) Sports and Adventure
  - vi) Mr Koh Seng Leong

3 This year, one team and one individual will also be receiving the Medal of Commendation. They are the NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee and Mr Lee Hong Chuang who won the SYA for Community and Youth Services (Team) and (Individual) in 2002 and in 2004 respectively. Please refer to enclosed annexes for information on the SYA and the recipients.

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 **Wednesday, 1 July 2009, 10.00 am, at Level 1 \*scape Youth Centre, 113 Somerset Road.**

6 You are cordially invited to the media briefing. We would appreciate it if you could confirm your attendance by **Tuesday, 30 June 2009 (5.00 pm)** to Ms Norhana Hamdan at 68399122 (DID) or 97110277 (Hp).

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\* NOTE: Mr JJ Lin will not be present at the Media Conference.

## **About the National Youth Council**

The National Youth Council (NYC) is the national coordinating body of youth affairs in Singapore. The NYC aims to develop a vibrant, highly-connected and self-sustaining youth sector so as to nurture World-Ready Youth. The NYC is part of the People's Association Network.

This media release is transmitted via telebox by the Corporate Communications Section of the National Youth Council. The National Youth Council is Part of the People's Association Network. For further information, please contact:

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## **FACT SHEET ON THE SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD (SYA)**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Singapore Youth Award (SYA) was formerly known as the National Youth Service Award (NYSA) until it was renamed in 1993. SYA was instituted in 1975 to identify outstanding youths to be nominated for the Commonwealth Youth Service Award (CYSA). It is conferred at the Istana on the first Sunday of every July.

The SYA is the highest youth accolade in Singapore that honours youths who have significantly contributed to the society and achieved excellence in the following areas:

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

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYA**

The SYA is the highest national honour conferred on youths in Singapore.

### **AIMS OF THE SYA**

The SYA aims to recognise, recommend and encourage contributions made by youth in Singapore to the progress of our society.

The SYA also aims to honour young people whose achievements will serve as an inspiration to others.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Nominees must be Singapore citizens. Permanent residents of 5 years and longer are also eligible.
- Nominees should be 35 years old and below at the time of nomination.
- Nominees must be of good character.
- The achievements and community involvement of nominees must total at least 3 years. They can be accumulated over different time periods and in different files.
- For teams, the majority of the members (60% of team or more) should meet all the above criteria.
- Teams should be in existence for at least 5 consecutive years.
- Nominees' achievements may be in the course of their work, an extension of their work or an extra-curricular activity.

### **Medal of Commendation**

- SYA awardees who have continued to attain higher levels of achievement and contribution to society for at least five years after their Award may be considered for the Medal of Commendation.
- Only achievements and contributions made after the Award will be considered.
- Nominees for the Medal of Commendation should be 40 years old and below at the time of nomination.

## **SELECTION**

The final selection is made by the SYA Panel, assisted by an Advisory Committee for each award category.

## **CRITERIA**

- Nominee's excellence in the area being considered.

- Nominee's contribution to the prestige of the nation.
  - Extent to which nominee is an inspiration or role model to other youths.
  - Nominee's other contributions to society.
  - Other awards.
-

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
RECIPIENTS**

**AWARD**

Arts and Culture

- |   |                |      |
|---|----------------|------|
| 1 | Mr Ho Tzu Nyen | pg 8 |
| 2 | Mr JJ Lin      | pg 9 |

Community and Youth Services

- |   |                       |       |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| 3 | Ms Lina Chong Lin Lin | pg 10 |
|---|-----------------------|-------|

Entrepreneurship

- |   |                |       |
|---|----------------|-------|
| 4 | Mr Clinton Ang | pg 11 |
|---|----------------|-------|

Science and Technology

- |   |                   |       |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| 5 | Dr Tong Joo Chuan | pg 12 |
|---|-------------------|-------|

Sports and Adventure

- |   |                   |       |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| 6 | Mr Koh Seng Leong | pg 13 |
|---|-------------------|-------|

**MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

Community and Youth Services

- |   |   |       |
|---|---|-------|
| 7 | Mr Lee Hong Chuang                      | pg 14 |
| 8 | NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee (NVAC) | pg 15 |
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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
ARTS AND CULTURE**

**HO TZU NYEN**

*“To be able to create a work of art is to have  
the opportunity to give birth to a brave new world.”*

Mr Ho Tzu Nyen is an acclaimed visual artist and film maker. His latest film *HERE* made its premiere at the Directors’ Fortnight at Cannes 2009.

Tzu Nyen’s productions include *Utama – Every Name In History Is I*, which is an installation of film and paintings about the forgotten pre-colonial founder of Singapore. It was exhibited at the 26<sup>th</sup> Sao Paulo Biennale in 2004 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale in 2005. The film was shown at both the Bangkok International Film Festival and the Hong Kong International Film Festival in 2004.

Tzu Nyen has received numerous accolades locally as well as internationally. Besides winning the UOB Painting of the Year in the Abstract category in 2001, he received The Grand Jury Prize at the 4th Pris de Courts International Short Film Festival in France and the Special Mention at the Vienna Independent Short Film Festival for *The Bohemian Rhapsody Project* in 2008. *The Bohemian Rhapsody Project* is a film set in the Supreme Court of Singapore with the dialogue taken entirely from the lyrics of Queen’s 1975 hit *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Beyond his work, Tzu Nyen also makes time to teach and lecture at various education institutions ranging from secondary schools to universities as he views education and engagement with youths as part of his artistic practice and responsibility. He enjoys challenging youths and being challenged by them in return.

For his outstanding excellence in the arts and his contributions to the local and international communities, Mr Ho Tzu Nyen is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
ARTS AND CULTURE**

**JJ LIN**

*“Nothing can stop you unless you stop yourself, nothing can push you unless you push yourself. The choice is yours.”*

Mr JJ Lin burst into the global Chinese music scene with his debut album *Music Voyager* in 2003. Garnering both critical acclaim and commercial success, especially in China and Taiwan, it was the start of his meteoric rise to stardom.

JJ is one of Singapore’s most popular musical talents. He has been honoured with numerous awards locally and internationally. They include Best Newcomer Gold at the Taiwan Golden Melody Awards 2004, Most Outstanding Regional Artiste at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Chinese Music Awards 2005, Best Producer of the Year at the Beijing Pop Music Awards 2007 and Top Local Composer of The Year at the 14th annual Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (Compass) Awards.

His success in the Chinese music scene is an inspiration to Singaporeans. He was a special guest performer at the National Day Parade 2004, where he performed the song *Home*. In 2008, JJ did Singapore proud as one of the official torchbearers for the Beijing Olympic Games. He was the only Singaporean artiste to have run the Beijing leg in the torch relay.

JJ is an advocate for charity and has contributed to organisations such as Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Children’s Cancer Foundation. He would personally pen messages on the mementoes he donates to charitable organisations and has sponsored a child and his family front-tier seats to his Singapore concert in March 2009. After the 512 Sichuan earthquake, JJ visited survivors and composed a song, *Love and Hope*, in dedication to the victims.

For his outstanding achievements in the music arena and contributions to the local and international communities, Mr JJ Lin is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES**

**LINA CHONG LIN LIN**

*“Community Service is the dawning realization of the greater understanding of our humanity. It is not about I making the difference, but WE helping to positively affect someone else's life.”*

An advocate for youth leadership and community development, Ms Lina Chong has been an effective leader and active supporter of numerous community and youth development initiatives.

Lina found her niche in youth work in 2002, when she joined the Pasir Ris-Elias Community Club Youth Executive Committee, under the umbrella of the People's Association Youth Movement (PAYM).

Since then, Lina has worked with schools to train students in community service and leadership development. Noticing an increasing trend in juvenile delinquency in Pasir Ris in 2004, Lina and her team, together with various government agencies, schools and voluntary welfare organisations, pioneered the Officers Mentoring Scheme to mentor youth probationers. A heart for troubled youths also spurred her to be a youth mentor for the STEP-UP and SPOT programmes for the Pasir Ris Family Service Centre.

Lina has also represented Singapore at international platforms, such as the China-ASEAN Youth Camp 2006 and ASEAN Summit 2006, and was the Assistant Delegation Leader for the Singapore-Kagoshima Youth Exchange Programme 2007. She also chaired the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youths – Youth Caucus in 2007. For her outstanding work, Lina was elected the PAYM Central Youth Council Chairperson in 2008.

Lina has been a sought-after speaker at various platforms such as the National Youth Forum 2008 and Talk on Mindset Change. Lina currently co-chairs the Steering Committee for the SHINE Youth Festival, which celebrates youth talent and young role models.

For her dedication to the youth community, Ms Lina Chong Lin Lin is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**CLINTON ANG**

*“As leaders of tomorrow, we must live our lives, to inherit the past, to create the present, so there will be a better tomorrow; the best is yet to be.”*

At the age of 35, Mr Clinton Ang epitomises the qualities of a young entrepreneur: driven, visionary and a risk-taker. He is the Managing Director of one of the long-standing companies in the wine industry and holds chairmanship in 15 companies.

In 1997, at the behest of his father and grandmother, Clinton left his banking job to take over the ailing family business. Under his leadership, the company was transformed into a one-stop integrated wine business. It also went into research and development of wines and non-alcoholic spirits to develop its own Cornerstone brands. In 2008, the company has an annual turnover of \$20 million.

Clinton has also created an integrated wine fund, which he hopes to position as Asia’s largest. He aims to take in stock in a bear market to stabilise prices and offer wine owners a platform to maximise their returns on wine investment.

Clinton’s achievements have been recognised by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Trade Commission, which made an exception to confer on a non-Australian the Young Achiever Award in 2001.

Clinton believes that the key to business renewal is corporate succession. Since 2003, he has initiated internship programmes with local tertiary institutions, providing training, referrals and scholarships to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Clinton has continued to devote his time and energy to society. He has been a grassroots leader at the Joo Chiat constituency since 2007 and sits on the Tampines Town Council Finance Committee. From 1997 to 2003, he volunteered as a badminton coach for his alma mater – Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road). Since 2006, Clinton has also been offering employment opportunities to inmates and ex-offenders.

For his entrepreneurial spirit and contributions towards the community, Mr Clinton Ang is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**DR TONG JOO CHUAN**

*“Excellence is a lifelong skill to be gained. Every little effort you put in adds up to make a world of difference.”*

Dr Tong Joo Chuan was the only Singaporean to be awarded the prestigious MIT’s Technology Review TR35 Award in 2008 for his research on computer-aided vaccine design. The annual award recognises the top 35 influential scientists worldwide.

Dr Tong’s expertise in immunoinformatics, an emerging area where computational methods are applied to problems in immunology, has earned him national and regional recognition in the life sciences field. In 2007, he was named the Annual Role Model by A\*STAR’s Institute for Infocomm Research.

Dr Tong has co-authored three book chapters, 24 international journals and five conference publications. His works have been cited and highlighted in the international media and academic journals. In recognition of his scientific contributions, he has been invited to review and edit for more than 10 international journals and publications, and to speak at international seminars and conferences such as the Emerging Technologies Conference, MIT (USA). In addition, he has established a student council in the Association for Medical and Bio-Informatics, Singapore (AMBIS) and is currently serving as President in the Association.

A passionate scientist, Dr Tong has mentored 51 students from the Ministry of Education’s Science Mentorship Programme, A\*STAR’s Young Researchers Attachment Programme, the polytechnics’ Industrial Attachment Programme, as well as the National University of Singapore’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) and Honours Year projects. Of these, 12 have gone on to receive awards. Dr Tong’s dedication is also evident through his voluntary provision of online guidance and training to more than 300 international and regional students.

For his scientific excellence and dedication to youths, Dr Tong Joo Chuan is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
SPORTS AND ADVENTURE**

**KOH SENG LEONG**

*“Success is not determined by how many medals you win, but how your character is moulded in the process; and throughout that process, how you helped and repaid the communities and people who supported you.”*

Mr Koh Seng Leong was one of the few national sailors who qualified for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on merit. He has made his mark in the Laser Class, having secured the top three placings in the Southeast Asian Games and advancing from the fifth position in 2002 to second position in 2006 in the Asian Games.

As the Sailing team captain in the Southeast Asian and Olympic Games, Seng Leong worked hard at motivating the young athletes to spur them on when they were faced with fierce competition.

In 2006, while recovering from an injury, Seng Leong coached the National Byte Squad even though he could not sail. This demonstrated his resilience in the face of adversity and his passion for sailing. His role as coach was pivotal to the squad in achieving world titles for Singapore during the World Championships held in Bermuda in July 2006.

Seng Leong’s outstanding achievements are not limited to sailing alone. An all-rounder, he is currently pursuing a tertiary degree in business management and has started a business in events management. His ability to juggle the rigours of both high-performance sports and studies as well as manage his business truly reflects his determination and strength of character.

In addition, Seng Leong finds time to actively contribute to the community. For example, with three other national sailors, he initiated and organised a fundraising event for Myanmar sailors affected by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Seng Leong also donated \$5,000 to the Singapore Management University Sports Scholarship Fund with fellow national sailor Renfred Tay. Beyond sailing, he currently serves as a Board Member of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee, focusing on youth engagement.

For his tenacity and for being an inspirational role model, Mr Koh Seng Leong is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

**LEE HONG CHUANG**

*“As the saying goes, youths are the future masters of a nation. May you come forward to lead, to dream, and to serve with a BIG heart, so that together we contribute more to our bright future.”*

Mr Lee Hong Chuang was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Community and Youth Services in 2004. Since then, he has been awarded the Public Service Medal in 2005 and the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Program International Award 2007 – prestigious accolades for his involvement in this arena.

Hong Chuang chaired and headed numerous projects during his term as Chairman of the People’s Association Youth Movement (PAYM) Central Youth Council from 2004 – 2008. Some notable projects included the PAYM 33<sup>rd</sup> - 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, PAYM Convention 2006 and the Asian Youth Leaders Forum 2007. In 2007, he also chaired the Youth Organising Committee for the Fifth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth. At present, Hong Chuang chairs the T-Net Advisory Council and \*scape Co Ltd, and volunteers with organisations in various sectors – sports, social service and corporate – including Hewlett-Packard, where he works.

Hong Chuang is also keen to share his knowledge on volunteerism, evident from his speaking engagements at various schools and diverse platforms such as the National Youth Forum, PAYM Policy Forums and the Asian Youth Leaders Forum.

A key player in the local gymnastics scene, Hong Chuang has been President of the Singapore Amateur Gymnastics Association since 2005 and 1st Vice President (Excellence) of Singapore Gymnastics since 2007. As Team Manager, he led the Singapore team to its best performance ever at the Southeast Asian Games 2007 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Senior Asian Gymnastics Championship 2008. Needless to say, Hong Chuang is well positioned for his role as Competition Manager at the Youth Olympic Games 2010.

For his achievements, as well as contributions to the community and youth development at significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, Mr Lee Hong Chuang is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2009.

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD 2009  
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION (TEAM)**

**NUSSU VOLUNTEER ACTION COMMITTEE**

*“It begins with the smallest act of kindness, to touch the heart and soul of others.”*

The NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee (NVAC) was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Community and Youth Services in 2002 for inspiring its members to give back to the community. Since then, NVAC has played an active role in both the global and national communities through its numerous initiatives to promote volunteerism among youths in Singapore and to raise awareness for global causes.

NVAC recognises the importance of developing volunteerism and offers a myriad of opportunities for volunteers. These include regular local interaction programmes at institutions such as the Moral Welfare Home and the Institute of Mental Health as well as international youth exchange programmes aimed at setting up medical and education wings in neighbouring ASEAN countries.

Since 2002, NVAC has organised several significant events, notably Charity Fiesta '07 - '08 and Con Amore '08, in collaboration with organisations such as the National Council of Social Service, Singapore Pools and the Central Singapore Community Development Council, to promote volunteerism among members of the public. These novel methods reflect its innovative and extensive efforts in community outreach.

Internationally, NVAC made its mark by being at the forefront of several fundraising projects for victims of natural disasters such as Cyclone Nargis in 2008. The team has also been organising ongoing programmes such as Project Sang Khem (Cambodia) and Project Pinnya Tazaung (Myanmar), in aid of villages with limited amenities. These projects are expected to benefit an impressive 3,200 villagers.

In 2008, NVAC received the prestigious Commonwealth Youth Silver Award for demonstrating excellence in community work and promoting the spirit of volunteerism among undergraduates through Charity Fiesta, its flagship fundraising event.

For its achievements, as well as contributions to the local and global communities at significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, the NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2009.

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6 Name : Mr Koh Seng Leong  
 Chinese Characters : 许圣隆  
 Age as of 1 January 2009 : 25  
 Occupation : Student  
 Singapore Management University

#### **MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

1 Name : Mr Lee Hong Chuang  
 Chinese Characters : 李宏壮  
 Age as of 1 January 2009 : 38  
 Occupation : Business Recovery Operation Manager  
 Hewlett Packard Singapore

2 Name : NUSSU Volunteer Action Committee  
 Chinese Characters : 新加坡国立大学学生会义工行动社  
 Team Representatives : Mr Lee Kok Leong  
 李国良  
 Chairperson  
  
 Ms Ang Yi Jia  
 洪亿佳  
 Vice Chairperson  
  
 Mr Sim Thiam Keong  
 沈炎强  
 Secretary  
  
 Ms Amelia Ong Huiyin  
 王蕙茵  
 Advisor

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