

NEWS RELEASE

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NTU Singapore honours its illustrious alumni for their outstanding contributions to society

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) minted outstanding alumni with honours at the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2024 today.

This year's award winners hail from diverse fields, from public service and philanthropy to sports, popular culture and the arts, business and entrepreneurship, and education and research.

The Nanyang Alumni Awards are presented to alumni who have either attained exemplary achievements in their specialised fields nationally, regionally or internationally, or have contributed significantly to the betterment of the University, the community or society.

To date, NTU has recognised the stellar achievements of more than 600 alumni through the annual awards, including 36 on the honour roll this year. In a celebration of the Awards' 20th anniversary, previous award winners joined the new awardees at a dinner and awards ceremony today.

NTU President Professor Ho Teck Hua said: "This year, we mark the 20th anniversary of the Nanyang Alumni Awards. We also celebrate the inspiring achievements and contributions of our illustrious alumni in Singapore and beyond. Over the years, NTU has nurtured top talent, whose impact is felt in every corner of society. The many success stories of our alumni highlight what is possible with an NTU education. I am confident that our alumni will continue to lead, innovate, and make a difference in the world."

The top award, the **Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award**, was awarded to **Ms Wee Wei Ling**, Executive Director (Sustainability Partnerships, Lifestyle and Asset), Pan Pacific Hotels Group.

The veteran hospitality leader is passionate about philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. She oversees the group's UOL-PPHG Community Uplift Programme, which offers enriching learning experiences to children from low-income families living

in rental housing.

Ms Wee, who is the daughter of the late UOB chairman emeritus Wee Cho Yaw, serves as a Director at the Wee Foundation and helps shape the family foundation's philanthropic efforts.

She was appointed by the People's Association as Chair of Project We Care, to promote corporate giving and volunteerism. Under her direction, Project We Care's network expanded from 40 to more than 400 corporate partners, participating in over 600 social impact initiatives that have benefited more than 900,000 beneficiaries.

Lauding achievements of outstanding alumni and young talent

Outstanding alumni were also celebrated in three other award categories: the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

One recipient of this year's **Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award** is **Dr Hoi Shu Yin**, chief nurse at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), who holds a Master's degree from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

Dr Hoi was one of three nursing leaders to receive the President's Award for Nurses 2023. She guided over 3,600 nurses in Singapore's fight against the coronavirus during the COVID-19 pandemic, for which she received a Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 2022. In the pandemic's early days, she oversaw the conversion of two floors of TTSH into COVID-19 wards in just three days to accommodate the rising patient numbers.

This year's **Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award** celebrates a wave of exciting young talent as alumni under below 40 blaze their trail and leave their impact on the world.

Among them is **Dr Tay Yi**, who left his role as a Google senior research scientist to co-found artificial intelligence (AI) start-up Reka AI as its Chief Scientist. The generative AI firm has been touted as a competitor to established AI names from OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google, having raised US\$110 million in funding to date.

The NTU-trained computer scientist holds an engineering degree and computer science PhD from NTU. During his time in Google, Dr Tay was one of the co-leads of its flagship large language model – the brains behind Google's generative AI.

Receiving a similar award is **Mr Ng Ming Wei**, a national athlete turned social media superstar known for his content with his father. He is the first person in Singapore to

earn the prestigious YouTube Diamond Play Button, which is presented to content creators who amass over 10 million subscribers.

The TikTok and YouTube star has 23 million and 11.9 million followers respectively on the two social media platforms. He previously represented Singapore in Taekwondo where he won two medals at the Southeast Asian Games in 2015 and 2019.

The School of Social Sciences alumnus now runs his own firm, Boom Digital Media, where he taps on his expertise to help clients with their social media branding and presence.

Another athlete lauded this year is para powerlifter **Ms Nur'Aini Binte Mohamad Yasli**, an alumna from the School of Social Sciences. She was Singapore's first woman to compete in para powerlifting at the ASEAN Para Games 2017, and clinched two bronze medals at the ASEAN Para Games 2023.

In the arts sphere, composer-conductor **Mr Yeo Kok Guan Benjamin** is honoured for his accomplishment as a musician. Mr Yeo is recognised internationally for his original wind band works. His works have been performed internationally, including at the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation for Brass/ Concert Bands, the Japan Band Clinic, and the prestigious Midwest Clinic, an annual International Band and Orchestra Conference held in Chicago, Illinois.

Additionally, 14 NTU alumni were awarded the **Nanyang Alumni Service Award** for their dedication to the University's alumni clubs and associations.

Please see the <u>Annex</u> below for the full list of Nanyang Alumni Award 2024 winners.

NTU today has 300,000 alumni residing in 172 countries. To better engage and connect with its global alumni community, the University has established 89 Alumni Associations in Singapore and overseas, and 25 Alumni Circles in countries or cities with small numbers of alumni.

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About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 35,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Business, Computing & Data Science, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

<u>ANNEX</u>

Nanyang Alumni Awards 2024

Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award

1. Ms Wee Wei Ling

Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award

- 1. Ms Adefunke Adeyemi
- 2. Prof Ang Hak Seng
- 3. Dr Ho Leng Woon
- 4. Dr Hoi Shu Yin
- 5. Mr Huang Tian Guan Stanley
- 6. Mr Koh Seoh Leng Richard
- 7. Mr Lam Hock Choon Marcus
- 8. Ms Lim Joo Ling Cindy
- 9. Mr Ng Kuo Pin
- 10. Ms Seah Jiak Choo

Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award

- 1. Dr Arjun Bhattarai
- 2. Mr Chia Dingli Stanley
- 3. Mr Leong Jia-Le Eric
- 4. Ms Lin Min Rebekah
- 5. Mr Ng Ming Wei
- 6. Ms Nur'Aini Mohamad Yasli
- 7. Mr Pramoda Dei Sudarmo
- 8. Mr Quah Zheng Wei
- 9. Dr Tay Yi
- 10. Mr Yeo Kok Guan Benjamin
- 11. Mr Zhang Chao

Nanyang Alumni Service Award

- 1. Ms Chen Jing Rong
- 2. Mr Chong Jun Jie Kenji
- 3. Mr Chua Chin Wei Vinson
- 4. Mr Foong Kok Shen
- 5. Dr Leon Tan Yuan Rui
- 6. Mr Lim Kok Ping
- 7. Mr Lu Yiming

- 8. Mr Nath Vivek
- 9. Mr Oh Chyi Haur
- 10. Dr Parthasarathy Krupakar
- 11. Dr Qian Hanhua
- 12.Mr Tan Cheng Wee
- 13. Ms Wei Shiyu
- 14. Mr Wong Lup Wai
