

EMBARGOED TILL 16 SEPTEMBER 2024, 2.30PM

MEDIA RELEASE

16 SEPTEMBER 2024

NIE NTU SINGAPORE CELEBRATES THE CRYSTAL YEAR OF THE CARING TEACHER AWARDS

The National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University (NIE NTU), Singapore, in partnership with **ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd** is celebrating its **15th Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2024 Presentation Ceremony** at the Dunman High School on Monday, 16 September 2024.

This year, the Caring Teacher Awards, themed 'Instilling a caring culture', saw a 14% increase in nominations and an 8% increase in participation from schools, bringing the total to 12,984 nominations from 259 schools. Supported by the Ministry of Education, the awards recognise outstanding educators who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the holistic development of their students. After rigorous evaluation, an external panel of judges selected three National Level Award winners and seven National Commendation Award winners.

"As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Caring Teacher Awards, we are reminded of the pivotal role teachers play in shaping the future of our society. Their dedication and compassion inspire us all, and it is an honour to recognise their unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation," said Professor Liu Woon Chia, NIE Director.

Guest-of-Honour **Ms Gan Siow Huang, Minister of State for Education and Manpower**, will present the awards to 10 teachers comprising four Primary, four Secondary and two Junior College/Centralised Institute educators at the Dunman High School. Out of the 10 teachers, three will be awarded the **National Level Award Winner**, and the rest will be recognised as **National Commendation Award** winners.

Ms Geraldine Chin, Chairman and Managing Director, ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. added: "ExxonMobil believes in the power of education and its transformative impact on students and communities. Caring teachers have a profound effect on the lives of their charges. We continue to be inspired by the calibre and dedication of all the nominees and winners of the Caring Teacher Awards.

ABOUT CARING TEACHER AWARDS

Celebrating 28 years since its inception in 1996, the biennial award is aimed at acknowledging and rewarding local school teachers who through their daily deeds and actions, exemplify the values of caring, sharing and concern for the academic, moral, social, emotional and mental welfare of their students.

Schools are invited to submit up to five nominations for the School Level winners, and to select one for the National Level Award nomination. Of these, a preliminary round is conducted to shortlist outstanding candidates for the National Level Award. Thereafter, the shortlisted National Level Award nominees are invited to meet an external panel of judges who will select the **National Level Award** winners.

The remaining nominees are recognised as **National Commendation Award** winners. All nominees are highly regarded by the local school community as nurturers, inspiring individuals and mentors. Nominations for this year's CTA were reviewed by the CTA Selection Panel Committee. National Level Award Nominees were interviewed by:

PANEL OF JUDGES
Associate Professor Shanti Divaharan Chairperson CTA 2024 Organising Committee National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Ms Karen Wong Public and Government Affairs Director ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Professor Leo Tan Founder Caring Teacher Awards
Mdm Kang Mei Ling Director, Professional Development Branch 2 Academy of Singapore Teachers
Mr Anbarasu Rajendran Chief Executive Officer Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA)
Mdm Zulaiha Yusuf Deputy Chief Executive Officer Yayasan MENDAKI
Ms Patricia Campbell Deputy Director and Head Public, International and Alumni Relations National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

For the programme, list of CTA winners and synopses of the 2024 National Level Award winners, please refer to Annexes A, B and C respectively

ABOUT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (NIE), SINGAPORE

The National Institute of Education (NIE), an autonomous institute of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore is among the world's top education institutes, renowned for its excellence in teacher education and education research. Founded in 1950, NIE has played a pivotal role in developing Singapore's teaching workforce.

In a dynamic education milieu, NIE prepares teachers with the requisite values, skills and knowledge to meet the continuous demands of diverse learners across the lifespan. The quality of NIE programmes is based on evidence-informed reviews and enhancement, and delivered using innovative pedagogies in digitally-mediated learning spaces. NIE's degree, higher degree and professional development programmes offer global perspectives through international practice and semester exchanges, while 21st Century pedagogies, multidisciplinary curricula and service-learning initiatives help to develop the holistic reflective practitioner and school leader. The Institute also offers the only local sports-related undergraduate degree programme in Sport Science & Management that provides academic and professional pathways to sports-related careers.

NIE is ranked among the world's top institutions for research in education and the education-related disciplines. Its research philosophy is focused on impacting school practices, enhancing programmes, informing policy formation and, ultimately, improving student learning outcomes. With its highly reputable education programmes and rich research culture, it has built strategic alliances with many other renowned institutions in the US, Europe and Asia Pacific regions.

Recognising the need to anticipate, adapt and advance, NIE has recently identified five strategic growth areas under a new institute-level initiative, Learning Initiatives for the Future of Education at NIE NTU Singapore (LIFE@NIE SG[®]). Over the coming years, NIE will grow its regional and global impact in these five priority areas – Child and Human Development, Values and Ethics, Science of Learning, Emerging Technologies, and Assessment and Evaluation – to lead the future of education and play its part in helping to address Singapore and humanity's grand challenges in an ever-evolving world.

For more information, please visit: www.ntu.edu.sg/nie.

ABOUT EXXONMOBIL IN SINGAPORE

ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (EMAPPL), is one of Singapore's largest foreign manufacturing investors with over S\$25 billion in fixed asset investments. Our manufacturing facilities include an integrated world-scale refining and petrochemical complex, as well as a lubricant plant. We provide customers and markets in the region with fuels, lubricants, petrochemicals and liquefied natural gas. ExxonMobil is also growing its lower-emission fuels portfolio and Low Carbon Solutions business to bring emission-reduction solutions to the region. We have also invested in supporting research in Singapore for lower-emission pathways and sustainable solutions. ExxonMobil also contributes to community programs in Singapore that support education, health and the environment. For more information, visit www.exxonmobil.com.sg or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#).

CARING TEACHER AWARDS 2024 CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Date/Time : Monday, 16 Sep 2024, 3.00 PM

Venue : **Dunman High School**, 10 Tanjong Rhu Rd, Singapore 436895

Duration : 3.00 PM to 5.00 PM

Programme

2.30PM **Registration of Guests**

3.20PM Start of event

3.20PM **Photo opportunity –**
Speech by:

- Professor Liu Woon Chia
Director
National Institute of Education, Singapore
- Ms Geraldine Chin
Chairman and Managing Director
ExxonMobil Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
- Guest-of-Honour
Ms Gan Siow Huang
Minister of State for Education and Manpower

3.50PM **Photo opportunity –**

- Awards presentation
- Guest-of-Honour takes group photo with CTA 2024 winners

4.15PM **Post-event interviews and photo-taking**

- CTA 2024 reception

5.00PM End of event

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AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS

LIST OF WINNERS - CARING TEACHER AWARDS 2024

S/N	Name	No. of Years in Service (as of 31 Dec 2023)	School
National Level Award Winners			
1	Mdm Chitra Devi Gunasegar	21 Years 11 Months	Sengkang Green Primary School
2	Mdm Ng Peck Wee	10 Years	Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)
3	Ms Seah Sim Yee	10 Years	Yishun Innova Junior College
National Commendation Award Winners			
1	Ms Annie Tan	20 Years	De La Salle School (Primary)
2	Mrs Tay Shu Yi	19 Years	Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)
3	Ms Dawn Sia Pei Fen	9 Years 4 Months	Westwood Primary School
4	Ms Siti Aisha Abdul Aziz	12 Years 5 Months	Tanjong Katong Girls' School (Secondary)
5	Mr Bryan Tan Yong Hao	14 Years 3 Months	Temasek Secondary School
6	Mr Ng Thiam Seng	22 Years	Zhonghua Secondary School
7	Mrs Meta Venisia Sukamto-Lee	6 Years	Hwa Chong Institution

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The following are the profiles of the 2024 National Level Award winners:

Mdm Chitra Devi Gunasegar
Sengkang Green Primary School

'Impactful Approach to Inclusive Education'

Chitra's teaching philosophy centers on creating a space where every student feels valued, supported, and understood, which she believes is crucial for their confident growth as learners. Her son's mild autism diagnosis led her to extensive research, enhancing her empathy and skills in supporting special needs students, enriching both her parenting and teaching approaches to create inclusive learning environments.

Her memorable teaching experiences highlight her ability to make a profound impact on her students' lives. One such instance involved an eleven-year-old girl with ADHD, whom Chitra helped manage her impulsivity through positive reinforcement and small tasks. This approach not only improved the student's behavior but also fostered a supportive classroom environment. Another notable experience was with a dyslexic student, for whom Chitra developed differentiated instruction materials to enhance learning outcomes.

Chitra believes that instilling a caring culture in the classroom positively impacts both students and the broader community. By promoting empathy and kindness, she creates an inclusive and supportive atmosphere where every student can thrive. Her commitment to supporting students' emotional well-being during difficult times further underscores her role as a compassionate educator.

Mdm Ng Peck Wee
Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)

'From Corporate to Classroom: Mdm Ng Peck Wee's Journey of Impact and Care in Education'

Peck Wee made a significant mid-career change ten years ago, transitioning from a successful 20+ year tenure in corporate banking to teaching at 48. Driven by a desire to contribute to society, she embraced the challenges of adapting to a new profession, taking a significant pay cut to enrich the minds of the next generation.

Peck Wee continuously explores and implements innovative teaching strategies, believing that academic performance alone is insufficient in today's complex world. She advocates for holistic development through life lessons, moral values, and resilience. Her guiding principle, "If you have the right attitude, you can achieve anything," resonates deeply with her students.

Over the past decade, she has guided two graduating batches of girls from Year 1 to Year 4, witnessing their transformation into confident young women. One poignant memory from the last day of school in 2019, where heartfelt goodbyes underscored the close bonds fostered in her classroom, highlights her profound impact.

She advocates for a caring classroom environment, emphasizing empathy, kindness, and mutual respect. Her personal connection with students, meeting with each individually to understand their challenges, has led to meaningful interventions. She collaborates with

parents to support student well-being and organizes community service activities to teach empathy and kindness. Her influence extends beyond the classroom, inspiring students to excel academically and develop into compassionate individuals.

Ms Seah Sim Yee
Yishun Innova Junior College

Sim Yee's journey as a Chemistry teacher began with a passion for the subject, leading her to a dedicated career in education. She recognizes that teaching extends beyond imparting knowledge, embracing the opportunity to nurture students holistically, supporting them both academically and emotionally.

She is committed to being approachable and available to her students, offering online consultations and personalized guidance to address academic queries and personal concerns. Her innovative use of technology creates an inclusive learning environment, adapting to students' evolving needs and empowering them to become independent, resilient learners.

Inspired by her experiences as a parent, Sim Yee values trust and mentorship, building meaningful connections through heartfelt conversations and gestures of support. She aims to create a nurturing environment where students feel valued and understood, fostering a sense of belonging and empathy.

A notable example of her dedication is her work with a hospitalised student who was determined to complete her A Levels. By leveraging technology and developing innovative solutions, Sim Yee ensured the student's inclusion in daily classroom activities and examinations. This experience underscored the practical aspects of inclusivity and the importance of a supportive learning environment.

Teaching, for Sim Yee is about connection and heart. Her genuine care and concern for her students create an educational atmosphere where they thrive holistically, becoming confident, independent, and resilient learners. This nurturing approach not only transforms students but also inspires her colleagues to continually strive for excellence.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE