

STRICTLY EMBARGOED TILL 3 DECEMBER 2010, 5.00 pm



Media Release

Six Individuals and Organisations Honoured for Pinnacle Achievements in Volunteerism and Philanthropy
New research data suggests employers can play a significant role in attracting former and non-volunteers

Singapore, 2 December 2010 – President SR Nathan will present the 2010 National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards to six outstanding recipients who have brought giving to new heights at a ceremony on 3 December at The Istana.

This year, NVPC has expanded the awards categories to recognise outstanding individuals and public sector organisations that lead the way in volunteerism or philanthropy. “NVPC’s work is about transforming the giving landscape in Singapore, and hence we highlight those amongst us who are doing just that. We’ve focused mainly on organisations since the Awards began seven years ago. It is timely that we celebrated individual role models who have and continue to inspire as well,” Laurence Lien, NVPC’s Chief Executive Officer said.

The National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards 2010 will be awarded to the following winners:

1. Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award

Winner: Asia Pacific Breweries – a multi-national company that set up a foundation with an initial capital injection of \$10 million to invest in, and develop, the communities in which it operates;

2. Public Sector Volunteer of the Year Award

Winner: Singapore Civil Defence Force – a public sector organisation whose structured approach to volunteering is guided by its mission of being Singapore’s “Life Saving Force”;

3. Non-profit Organisation of the Year Award (Volunteer Management)

Winner: Dover Park Hospice - a non-profit whose committed volunteers are integral to its work of helping patients with advanced diseases and their loved ones cope with the end of life;

4. Non-profit Organisation of the Year Award (Philanthropy Management)

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Winner: Methodist Welfare Services – a charity whose excellence in donor management and fundraising has enabled it to provide quality social services through its 13 centres and outreach services;

5. Philanthropist of the Year Award

Winner: Mr Wee Lin – An engineer whose passion to help the poor and needy has directly benefited countless people, and inspired other donors and volunteers to give of themselves; and

6. Volunteer of the Year Award

Winner: Dr Christine Chen – a long-time volunteer who has devoted her time, energy and resources to raising the bar in early childhood education in Singapore.

For full details of the Awards winners, please refer to *Annex 1: National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards Citations 2010*.

New Research Findings Underscore Role of Employers

The Awards will be conferred at a time of promising growth for the giving sector. NVPC's *Individual Giving Survey 2010* saw the volunteerism rate soaring to an all-time high of 23.3%, with total donations by individuals exceeding \$1 billion for the first time. There was a rise in volunteerism rates across most age groups in 2010; with volunteerism rate for individuals aged 15 to 24 especially high at 36%. Compared to the high rate of volunteering among those aged 15 to 24, the rate of volunteering among those aged 25 and above is lower. In particular, volunteerism rate among those aged 65 and above has remained flat since 2006.

“While many of our youth are stepping forward to give of their time, it is challenging for them to maintain their volunteer commitments once they start work. Companies and employers should step up to organise more employee volunteering activities. They can also encourage volunteering among their employees who are nearing retirement,” Mr Lien said.

“Our research shows that employers can play a crucial role in attracting their staff to volunteer. In fact, 80% of former volunteers and 54% of non-volunteers said they would participate if their employers were to organise a volunteer activity,” he continued.

Some 250 guests comprising decision-makers from the people, private, and public sectors will grace the occasion.

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About the National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards

Launched in 2004 by President S R Nathan, the National Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards presented by the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) are pinnacle awards honouring those who have set excellence benchmarks in encouraging the spirit of giving in Singapore.

The genesis of the Awards goes back to the National Volunteerism Awards inaugurated in 2001 by NVPC's predecessor, the National Volunteer Centre, in celebration of the International Year of Volunteers. The Awards then recognised volunteer management best practices by volunteer hosting organisations, corporations and groups.

Beyond recognising excellence in volunteerism, the new Awards now include a focus on best practices in philanthropy, incorporating donor management and good governance.

The **Corporate and Public Sector Category** recognises organisational best practices in volunteerism or philanthropy in the private and public sector. There are three separate awards in this category which recognises organisations:

- Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award
- Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award
- Public Sector Volunteer of the Year Award

The **Non-profit Organisation Category** recognises best practices in the management of volunteers or donors (including fundraising practices) in non-profit organisations. There are two separate awards in this category:

- Non-profit Organisation of the Year Award (Volunteer Management)
- Non-profit Organisation of the Year Award (Philanthropy Management)

As the Awards Partner in this category, the **Harvard Singapore Foundation** will sponsor a \$10,000 scholarship for each winner of the Non-profit Organisation Award

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to attend Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management programme. This is the sixth year that the Foundation is sponsoring this category.

The **Individual and Special Recognition Category** recognises an individual, group, organisation, programme or campaign for outstanding and exemplary contributions to the non-profit sector and to society that are not recognised in the other award categories. Nominees in this category must inspire as a multiplier or catalyst, a great mobiliser of resources, or as a giver in a significant way. There are three separate awards in this category:

- Philanthropist of the Year Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Special Recognition Award

There are no award recipients for the following awards this year: *Corporate Volunteer of the Year Award* and *Special Recognition Award*.

Each award category is assessed by an external panel of judges comprising leaders in the private, people and public sectors and by NVPC's Awards Committee comprising NVPC board members.

About the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

NVPC is the national body that promotes and develops volunteerism and philanthropy, functioning as a first-stop centre, catalyst and networking agency to foster the giving spirit in Singapore, whether of time, money or in kind.

We work with non-profit organisations, companies and public sector bodies to facilitate and strengthen Community Giving efforts through our promotional and networking platforms, public education programmes, training in volunteer management (including employee volunteering) and fund-raising, as well as grants, research and publications.

Visit our website at www.nvpc.org.sg