



28 June 2007

NEWS RELEASE

Editors / Programme Managers

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2007

AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY SUNDAY, 1 JULY 2007, ISTANA

Young. Distinctive. Passionate. Exemplary. Every year, the Singapore Youth Awards (SYA) honour youth who possess these traits and whose achievements and service to the community are inspirational.

2 This year, six individuals will receive the SYA, the nation's highest youth accolade. Deputy Prime Minister Professor S. Jayakumar will confer the awards at the Presentation Ceremony on **Sunday, 1 July 2007 at the Istana.**

3 The recipients of SYA 2007 are:

AWARD

- (a) Mr Alvin Pang Khee Meng (Arts and Culture)*
- (b) Ms Stefanie Sun (Arts and Culture)*
- (c) Ms Melissa Aratani Kwee (Community and Youth Services)

* Mr Alvin Pang and Ms Stefanie Sun will not be present at the Awards Presentation Ceremony.

- (d) Mr Ivan Lee Chung Hwa (Entrepreneurship)
- (e) Dr Yu Hao (Science and Technology)
- (f) Ms Valerie Teo Hui Ying (Sports and Adventure)

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

- (a) National Youth Achievement Award Gold Award Holders' Alumni (GAHA)
(Community and Youth Services)

More details on the award recipients are attached at Annex A.

6 You are cordially invited to the SYA 2007 Presentation Ceremony. The programme is attached at Annex B. We would appreciate it if you could confirm your attendance by **29 June 2007 (5.00 pm)** to Ms Luxshmi Shivaram at 6839 9122 (DID) or 96208414 (Hp). Due to stringent security requirements at the Istana, the Istana Security Unit will allow only media personnel who have confirmed their attendance and bear the MICA-issued Press Accreditation Card to enter the Istana on that day. We seek your understanding in this matter.

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:

Media Liaison

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2007
(AWARD)**

**MR ALVIN PANG
Arts and Culture**

Awarded the National Arts Council's Young Artist award in 2006, Mr Alvin Pang has won distinguished awards both locally and internationally. Many of his works, ranging from articles and reviews to poems and short stories, have been published in local and overseas publications. Alvin is also active in numerous initiatives in the literary and Arts fields such as being the co-initiator and advisor for the National Online Repository of the Arts and co-organising Singapore's first poetry festival in 2004.

**MS STEFANIE SUN
Arts and Culture**

Since her debut in 2000, Ms Stefanie Sun has made a meteoric rise to stardom. With her best-selling records and awards from both local and overseas music industry, Stefanie is one of Singapore's most popular musical talents. Her success in the Chinese music scene is a source of inspiration to Singaporeans and Stefanie is regarded as a role model for aspiring singers.

**MS MELISSA ARATANI KWEE
Community and Youth Services**

Ms Melissa Kwee is a strong advocate in the community, especially in the areas of youth development and leadership. She has taken up leadership positions in community organizations and spearheaded a series of youth leadership programmes. One of Melissa's earliest initiatives was "Project Access", a leadership education programme for girls that sought to "broaden the realm of the possible", which she founded in 1996. In 2006, Melissa set up the "Beautiful People" to reach out to teenage girls by offering them life-skill programmes and the opportunity to be mentored by older women.

MR IVAN LEE
Entrepreneurship

Founder of popular Thai food restaurant chain, ThaiExpress, Mr Ivan Lee established the first ThaiExpress restaurant in 2002. Under Ivan's leadership, the company has expanded rapidly from just one restaurant in Holland Village to a chain of 19 local and 16 international outlets today. The success of ThaiExpress in establishing a distinctive brand in a fiercely competitive industry was recognized as it was awarded the Singapore Promising Brand Award in 2006.

DR YU HAO
Science and Technology

Awarded the Singapore National Academy of Science Young Scientist Award in 2006, Dr Yu Hao's expertise in functional genomics and innovation in the Genetic Transformation System to speed up the production of hybrid orchids has earned him recognition in the horticultural field. Dr Yu specialises in biotechnology research and among his areas of interest are the development of edible Hepatitis B vaccine from vegetables and the production of novel oil crops.

MS VALERIE TEO
Sports and Adventure

Winning a place in the national bowling team at the tender age of 14, Valerie has struck gold in numerous national and international bowling competitions. In 2006, Singapore watched proudly as Valerie was crowned champion at the 9th World Youth Tenpin Bowling Championships in Berlin, Germany. In the Same year, Valerie clinched Singapore's first gold medal at the 15th Asian Games for the Women's Doubles event. Valerie's achievements are not limited to bowling alone. Pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor, her ability to juggle training for major competitions with the high demands of medical studies truly reflects her determination and strength of character.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2007
(MEDAL OF COMMENDATION)**

**NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD GOLD AWARD HOLDERS'
ALUMNI
Community and Youth Services**

The National Youth Achievement Award Gold Award Holders' Alumni (GAHA) plays an active role in the community and youth services, living up to its credo of "Service Beyond Gold". GAHA recognises the importance of developing youth and offers a myriad of youth development opportunities, including regular leadership talks and international exchange programmes. GAHA has also come up with new initiatives and novel methods of volunteerism, reflecting its innovative and extensive efforts in community outreach.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2007
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
SUNDAY, 1 JULY 2007, THE ISTANA**

PROGRAMME

4.00 pm

Arrival of Guests
(Guests to be seated by 4.50 pm)

5.00 pm

Arrival of Prof S. Jayakumar
Deputy Prime Minister,
Co-ordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law
Republic of Singapore

The National Anthem

Speech by Mr Tan Yam Pin, BBM
Chairman, Singapore Youth Award Panel

5.20 pm

Citations of SYA 2007 Recipients

Presentation of Singapore Youth Awards 2007
by Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar

5.45 pm

Reception and Viewing of Exhibits at the Banquet Hall