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NEWS RELEASE

Editors / Programme Managers

HIGHEST NATIONAL HONOURS FOR YOUTH

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005

Drive and passion in pursuits of excellence; traits shared by six individuals and one team who will be conferred the nation's highest youth accolade by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, at the Presentation Ceremony of the Singapore Youth Awards (SYA) 2005 to be held on Saturday, 25 June 2005 at the Istana. The SYA honours youth whose distinction in their fields of endeavour and service to the community are inspirational.

2 The SYA 2005 will be awarded as follows:

- (a) Arts and Culture
 - i) Mr Goh Boon Teck

- (b) Community and Youth Services
 - ii) Mr Glenn Lim Kern Nien
 - iii) Singapore Soka Association Youth Division (Team)

- (c) Science and Technology
 - iv) Dr Ng Huck Hui
 - v) Assoc Prof Edward Teo Ho Khoon

- (d) Sports and Adventure
 - vi) Ms Theresa Goh Rui Si
 - vii) Ms Li Jia Wei.

3 This year, two individuals will also be conferred the Medal of Commendation. They are Dr Kong Hwai Loong and Mr Sheik Alau'ddin Bin Yacoob Marican, PBM, who won the SYA for Science and Technology in 1999

and for Sports & Adventure in 1997 respectively. More information on this year's Award and Medal of Commendation recipients is at Annex A.

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 **Monday, 20 June 2005, 10:00am, at the Conference Room (Level 2), National Youth Centre, 113 Somerset Road.**

6 You are cordially invited to the media briefing. We would appreciate it if you could RSVP your attendance by **17 June 2005 (5pm)** to Ms Zalina Mohd Gazali at 6839 9103 (DID) or 9678 7034 (Hp).

The news release is transmitted via telebox by the Corporate Communications Section of the National Youth Council. For further information, please contact:

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
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MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

Science and Technology

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**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
ARTS AND CULTURE**

MR GOH BOON TECK

"Only by realizing how small you are, you then enjoy the quest for bigness."

In the local theatre scene, Mr Goh Boon Teck is viewed as one of the best in his generation. He has won the hearts of many who have seen his works, and the respect of those who have worked with him.

Despite having good grades, Boon Teck did not follow the usual academic path. He followed his heart instead, immersing himself into the world of arts. As a multi-talented artist, he is a director, playwright, set designer, visual artist and actor. He was the first recipient of the VISA international arts scholarship to study theatre in London.

At the young age of 19, he founded the Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, a bilingual theatre company. As Chief Artistic Director, he spearheaded more than 60 productions since 1990, including Posteterne, K, Shopping & F***king, Fireface and Dangerous Liaisons.

Highly versatile and bilingual, Boon Teck has directed text-based play, physical theatre, musical and opera. He has directed several Mandarin productions, including I Have A Date With Spring, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Thunderstorm. These innovative works garnered rave reviews amongst critics and audiences.

In 1994, he conquered the theatre world with his multi-lingual play, Titoudao, based on the life of his mother, a well-known Chinese opera actress. This masterpiece won the Best Play of the Year. It represented Singapore in Cairo International Festival for Experiment theatre in the same year. In 2001, it won five out of nine awards at the inaugural LIFE! Theatre Awards. That same year, Boon Teck won the National Arts Council Young Artist Award.

Boon Teck's fame is not restricted to Singapore. In 2003, he was commissioned by the Kageboushi Theatre of Japan, to write and direct the international production, Prism, which toured six countries.

In spite of his achievements and talents, Boon Teck has remained humble and attentive to every detail. His advice, "be answerable to your heart and soul" has made him a role model and inspiration to young people.

For his unending energy and creative contribution to the arts, Mr Goh Boon Teck is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES**

MR GLENN LIM KERN NIEN

“Our experiences in life, no matter how painful and unexplainable, are essential for character-building and helping others who are going through the same struggles.”

Inspirational role model. Gifted public speaker. These are just some of the powerful descriptions of Mr Glenn Lim Kern Nien; a man who has turned away from drugs, and made good.

As a young rock musician, Glenn came close to a life sentence and 24 strokes of the cane for importing drugs. Glenn made a turnaround when his charge was reduced. Thankful for his second chance, Glenn joined Teen Challenge as a counsellor to other drug addicts.

In 1998, he founded Awakening Productions, a non-profit events and talent management organisation, which organises gigs for youth to express themselves and realize their potential through performance and music. In 2003, Glenn, through Awakening Productions, was among the pioneers in recognising the talent of Operation Art-Core, a group of teens who were looking to express themselves through graffiti. He created opportunities for them to display their works in a positive, and professional environment.

His selflessness extends to volunteering at voluntary welfare organisations such as Lakeside Family Centre, where he shares his knowledge of music and speaks at their Streetwise Programme, appealing to the youth in gangs, and sharing his dramatic, life-changing testimony. He also speaks regularly at correctional institutions and various halfway houses.

Glenn also works closely with agencies such as the National Arts Council and Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association to spread the anti-drug message, and with Singapore Corporation Of Rehabilitative Enterprises in the Yellow Ribbon Project. He has also most recently starred in ‘Green Grass’, a film commissioned by the National Council Against Drug Abuse and Singapore Prison Service, to tell his life story. To date, he has reached more than 10,000 students and members of the public, making a profound impact on the community at large.

Today, this dedicated anti-drug ambassador and champion of youth tirelessly engages and uplifts the young. By sharing his personal journey from the dark days of self-destruction and rebelliousness, Glenn has touched the hearts of many at-risk young people, and given them hope. They have left their broken lives, and transformed themselves.

For his dedication to youth work and being an inspirational role model, Mr Glenn Lim Kern Nien is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES (TEAM)**

SINGAPORE SOKA ASSOCIATION YOUTH DIVISION

“As vibrant and committed youths, we really hope to make a difference in people’s lives, refusing to be idle spectators.”

To the Singapore Soka Association (SSA) (Youth Division), the principle of value creation is paramount. Their mission is to live a value-creating life; to create value not only for individual gain but also for the greater good of the nation and the world at large.

The SSA (Youth Division) helps young people link with bigger issues in the world, looking beyond their individual selves. They realise that they will be able to make a difference, and contribute to society and humanity.

Since the Association’s inception in 1972, the organisation’s youth membership has grown to a current membership of 7,000 youths. The members, and their friends, see how voluntarism has brought change and improvement in themselves, and positive changes in society. This inspires them to further their voluntary activities.

The SSA (Youth Division) youth members are encouraged to not only volunteer with Soka, but with other organisations in their schools, workplaces and communities. Their selfless philosophy of value creation has also brought Soka into collaboration with other ethnic and faith-based organisations such as Perdaus, Mercy Relief and Yayasan Mendaki, join in activities such as the Youth Expedition Projects to Cambodia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and into regular inter-faith dialogues with organisations such as the Inter-Religious Organisation and MUIS.

The SSA (Youth Division) also organises initiatives such as the annual Youth Peace Conference and the Youth Peace Festival. The Youth Peace Culture Festival provides the youth with performing opportunities. Members and volunteers take part in the National Day Parade as performers and support helpers. The Soka Youth Centre, launched in 2001 to foster youth leadership and service to community, allows youth activities to be held on a regular basis, reaching out to more than 4,000 young people.

Besides these, SSA (Youth Division) assists in hospice care and caring for the visually handicapped, in blood donation drives, and other community-based organisations.

For its commitment to encouraging volunteerism among youth and excellence in youth development, the Singapore Soka Association (Youth Division) is conferred the Singapore Youth Award (Team) 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

DR NG HUCK HUI

“A curious mind is a remarkable possession of a person. An active and open one will allow you to fulfill your fullest potential. Our duty as mentor is to guide the young minds along the right path, and enthuse them so that they can continue on their own journeys of knowledge creation and excel beyond the mentor’s capacity. ”

Dr Ng Huck Hui is widely regarded as one of the leading scientists in the region. His recent accolades include the Singapore Young Scientist Award (2004) and the Biomedical Research Council Young Investigator Award (2003).

He started his scientific career as a novice undergraduate researcher in Singapore. After obtaining a First Class Honours degree and the Lijen Industrial Development Medal for his Honours project, Dr Ng went to the University of Edinburgh, on a Darwin Trust of Edinburgh Scholarship, for his Ph.D. study. His research led to the discovery of a link between DNA methylation and histone modifications, which was published in international scientific journals such as *Nature*. He was also invited to present his findings at the Gordon Chromatin Structure and Function Conference.

During his postdoctoral training at the Harvard Medical School, funded by the Damon-Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, Dr Ng made several important discoveries, which were published in prestigious international journals. Dr Ng is now leading a world-class group addressing important questions in gene regulation. Through collaborative efforts, his group utilizes cutting-edge technologies to dissect the regulatory networks in stem cells and cancer cells. His recent work on the global mapping of transcription factor binding sites for tumour suppressor protein, p53, was presented at the 5th HUGO Pacific meeting and 6th Asia Pacific Conference on Human Genetics 2004 (Singapore). Dr Ng’s works are also recognised internationally. His publications have registered over 3000 citations. He has presented his works at several international conferences and served as reviewer for different grant funding bodies.

As a dedicated educator and an inspiration to youth, Dr Ng employs innovative approaches in training students and overseeing their scientific education. He also speaks at seminars promoting biomedical research to young

people. His goal is to instil inquisitive spirits in these budding scientists and propel their scientific endeavours.

For his scientific excellence and his dedication, Dr Ng Huck Hui is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

A/P EDWARD TEO HO KHOON

"It is with a passion for what you do that drives the pursuit for excellence; to scale uncharted grounds through research, contributing to the progress of science in the global community."

Associate Professor Edward Teo's study of multi-black-hole solutions in string theory has gained international recognition amongst a select research community. His research findings, published in 19 articles in international journals such as *Physical Review Letters*, *Physical Review D* and *Nuclear Physics B*, have been cited 150 times and inspired further research work. His research work on negative energies was cited in a special issue of *Scientific American* entitled *The Edge of Physics*, devoted to the latest and most important developments at the frontiers of physics.

A child prodigy, A/P Teo obtained his PhD at the age of 21 from the University of Cambridge and pursued his passion for teaching physics at the National University of Singapore. He translates the abstract concepts of modern physics to his young audience, imparting intellectual strength to his students and awakening them to the joy of knowledge and science.

A/P Teo's dedication to physics and his active nurturing of youth is exemplified by his mentoring and supervision of students from secondary schools, junior colleges, and universities. He clearly brings out the best amongst the brightest. Some students have gone on to great heights, winning the National Science Talent Search Competition and the "First Step to Nobel Prize in Physics" competition. He has also been invited to give science talks at colleges and schools and was a curriculum consultant for National Junior College's pioneering space-science programme.

A/P Teo has won the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for four consecutive years from 2001 to 2004. He was also awarded the Young Researcher Award 2005, which honours the best in education, research and service at NUS.

For his scientific excellence and his dedication to nurturing, motivating and inspiring his students, Associate Professor Edward Teo Ho Khoon is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
SPORTS AND ADVENTURE**

MS THERESA GOH RUI SI

“I do the same things able bodied people do. I just do them differently.”

National swimmer Ms Theresa Goh Rui Si is a true inspiration. Born with spina bifida, but with grit and determination, she has become one of Singapore’s top athletes.

Introduced to swimming at the age of 5, Theresa began competing at the age of 12. In her first National Swimming Championships in 1999, she won two Gold Medals. Since then she has won 24 Gold Medals at the National Swimming Championships, bringing home a remarkable 10 Gold Medals in 2004. In track and field, Theresa has won Gold Medals at the 2000 and 2002 Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) National Track and Field Championships.

She established herself as one of the top athletes in the region in the 2001 ASEAN Para-Games, where she garnered six Gold Medals and two Silver Medals, and was named Sports Woman of The Games. She followed this with three gold Medals at the 2nd ASEAN Para-Games, breaking three Games records. At the 10th Malaysian Paralympic Games & ASEAN Invitation Championships in 2000 she won four Gold Medals.

In the international arena, she has won many accolades. In the FESPIC Games in 2002, Theresa took home three Gold and one Silver Medal. At the Australian National Junior Disabled Games in 2001 she won five Gold and two Silver medals, breaking four Games records along the way. At the ISMWSF World Wheelchair Games in 2003 Theresa won six Gold Medals. At the 2004 British Paralympic Trials, she came in first in the 200m Individual Medley and broke her personal best in six events. Theresa represented Singapore at the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the 2004 Athens Paralympics, where she finished in 5th position in the 100metres Breaststroke.

After being awarded the Sportsgirl of the Year for two years in a row in 2002 and 2003, Theresa was awarded Sportswoman of the Year by the SDSC in 2004.

Theresa also does her part for the community. She was the Poster Girl for the Ministry of Community Development and Sports in 2003. Theresa is also a member of Handicap Welfare Association (HWA) and Asian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) Therapy and Educational Assistance for Children in Mainstream Education (TEACHME).

For her dedication and inspirational achievements, Ms Theresa Goh Rui Si is awarded the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
SPORTS AND ADVENTURE**

MS LI JIA WEI

“Adversity must be met with a determined attitude. Do not give up.”

She was the National Table Tennis Champion and Singapore’s Sportswoman of the Year for four years running, from 2002 to 2005. But it was at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, in the Women’s Singles semi-finals, with an Olympic medal within her grasp, that Ms Li Jia Wei won our hearts.

Competing internationally since the age of 15, Jia Wei’s skill, determination and perseverance has brought her to the top of her sport. She now ranks 7th internationally, and has been in the top 20 of the International Table Tennis Federation’s ranking since 2000.

The reigning gold medallist since her SEA Games debut in 1999, she has 10 SEA Games gold medals to her name. She is also the reigning champion of the biennial Southeast Asian Championships, winning the Women’s Singles event in 1998, 2000 and 2004.

Jia Wei won her first International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Pro Tour event at the US Open in 2004, and the Slovenian Open in 2005. In addition to winning three gold medals (Women’s Doubles, Women’s Team and Mixed Doubles) and a silver medal (Women’s Singles) at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, Jia Wei also won the Commonwealth Championships in Women’s Singles, Women’s Doubles and Women’s Team event in 2000 and 2001. She also won the Women’s Singles and Women’s Team bronze medals at the 2002 Asian Games.

Jia Wei has shown her team commitment and leadership, helping the National Women’s Table Tennis Team clinch gold medals in several championships. At the 2003 SEA Games, she led the Singapore Team to a clean sweep of the gold medals in the women’s table tennis events – a first for Singapore. This achievement was repeated at the 2004 Southeast Asian Championships where Jia Wei’s efforts helped Singapore win the Women’s Singles, Women’s Doubles, Women’s Team and Mixed Doubles Championships.

Despite her busy training and competition schedule, Jia Wei also does her part in contributing back to the community. She actively promotes table tennis by participating at roadshows and community events.

For her dedication and her inspirational record of consistent sporting excellence, Ms Li Jia Wei is conferred the Singapore Youth Award 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

DR KONG HWAI LOONG

“The future of a society, or any organization for that matter, is heavily determined by the quality of its youths. We owe it to them, and indeed to ourselves, to ensure that their full potential is realized.”

Dr Kong Hwai Loong was conferred the Singapore Youth Award for Science and Technology in 1999 for his groundbreaking work in the development of novel cancer therapies.

Since then, he has continued to play a pivotal role as a medical oncologist and cancer researcher. In 2000, he founded the Singapore Genomics Programme. In 2002, he became A*STAR’s Deputy Managing Director (Integrative Sciences), and in 2003 the Executive Director of the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC). Dr Kong was responsible for the planning and funding of biomedical research at the national level. He was instrumental in the establishment of Biopolis and the Centre for Molecular Medicine, which have attracted prominent scientific talent from all over the world.

Dr Kong has forged strong partnerships with top international universities and research institutes. These partnerships have raised the international visibility of Singapore’s biomedical research. In partnership with the National Medical Research Council, Dr Kong founded the Clinician Scientist Investigatorship Award, bridging scientific research with clinical applications.

In addition to his medical and research expertise, Dr Kong also obtained an MBA degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, in 2002. Dr Kong’s expertise and contributions to the development of Singapore’s biomedical research scene were recognised both locally and internationally, including his election as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) in October 2004.

Dr Kong is particularly passionate about science outreach efforts to the school students. He actively mentors young scientists, scholars and students. He has also given numerous lectures to the scientific and the lay communities.

Dr Kong now sits on the Board of Directors of the Health Sciences Authority, Ministry of Health, and the Board of Governors for Raffles Girls’ School. He is also a Visiting Senior Consultant Oncologist to the National

University Hospital and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine to the National University of Singapore.

For his achievements and contributions to biomedical research, and his inspiration to our youth, Dr Kong Hwai Loong is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2005.

**SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
MEDAL OF COMMENDATION**

MR SHEIK ALAU'DDIN BIN YACOOB MARICAN, PBM

“Express your beliefs into action.”

A two-time world Silat champion, Mr Sheik Alau'ddin Yacoob Marican, PBM was conferred the Singapore Youth Award in 1997. Dubbed “Singapore’s Silat King”, Sheik retired from competition after the 1999 SEA Games and is now a successful and award winning coach.

Sheik is the head coach and technical director of the Singapore Silat Federation, nurturing Singapore’s future Silat champions. Under his charge, from 1999 to 2003, Singapore’s Silat exponents have brought home a total of 52 gold medals, 24 silver medals and 36 bronze medals from competitions around the world. At the 2004 World Silat Championships held in Singapore, his charges created history by winning four gold medals, surpassing Singapore’s best haul of two gold medals in 1994.

In recognition of his coaching excellence, Sheik was named the Coach of the Year by the Singapore National Olympic Council in 1999, 2001 and 2002. He is also two-time winner of the Singapore Sports Council’s Coaching Excellence Award, in 2002 and 2003.

Sheik has continued to actively promote Silat as a sport, coaching Silat at community clubs, resident committee centres, mosque and schools. Sheik also served as the President of GRASIO Association and 1st Assistant Secretary of the Singapore Silat Federation. Last year Sheik was the organising chairman for World SILAT championship held the 1st time in Singapore.

Outside of Silat, Sheik is active in the community and grassroots. He has served as GCT Youth Award committee under Mendaki, Deputy President for Weight Lifting Federation and committee member for Singapore Martial Arts Instructors’ Association (SMAIA). For SMAIA, he is the organising chairman for 2005 All Styles Martial Art Championship. He has also helped raised funds for Pertapis and Siglap Community Club. Sheik has also served as an advisor and committee member for the Club HDB – Health Club Committee. In 2000, he received the Public Service Medal for his contributions to the community.

For his achievements in bringing the youth and community to significantly higher levels after being awarded the SYA, Mr Sheik Alau'ddin Yacoob Marican, PBM is conferred the Medal of Commendation 2005.

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD

新加坡杰出青年奖

INFORMATION ON THE SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARD PANEL 2004-05

1. Name : Mr Tan Yam Pin, BBM
Chinese Characters : 陈炎斌
Appointment : Chairman
Singapore Youth Award Panel
Designation : Member
Public Service Commission

2. Name : Mr Lee Suan Hiang, PPA(P), PPA(E), PBS
Chinese Characters : 李瑞显
Appointment : Chairman
Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
(艺术与文化委员会)
Designation : Chief Executive Officer
National Arts Council

3. Name : Professor Leo Tan Wee Hin, PPA(E), PBM, BBM
Chinese Characters : 陈伟兴
Appointment : Chairman
Community and Youth Services Advisory Committee
(社区与青年服务委员会)
Designation : Director
National Institute of Education

4. Name : Professor Tan Teck Meng
Chinese Characters : 陈德明
Appointment : Chairman
Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee
(企业委员会)
Designation : Professor of Accounting
Singapore Management University

5. Name : Professor Bernard Tan Tiong Gie, PPA(P), BBM, BBM(L)
Chinese Characters : 陈忠义
Appointment : Chairman
Science and Technology Advisory Committee
(科学与科技委员会)
Designation : Professor of Physics
National University of Singapore
6. Name : Mr Wayde Clews
Appointment : Acting Chairman
Sports and Adventure Advisory Committee
(体育与探险委员会)
Designation : Director (Athlete Development)
Singapore Sports Council
7. Name : Mr Foong Hin Cheong
Chinese Characters : 冯显昌
Appointment : Secretary
Singapore Youth Award Panel
Designation : Director
National Youth Council

SINGAPORE YOUTH AWARDS 2005
FACT SHEET ON THE RECIPIENTS

AWARD

1. Name : Mr Goh Boon Teck
Chinese Characters : 吴文德
Age as of February 2005 : 33
Occupation : Chief Artistic Director

2. Name : Mr Glenn Lim Kern Nian
Chinese Characters : 林耿年
Age as of February 2005 : 34
Occupation : Youth Counsellor

3. Name : Singapore Soka Association Youth
Division
Chinese Characters : 新加坡创价学会青年部
Team Representatives : Mr Goh Kim Hua
吴锦华
Youth Chief

Mr Melvin Yee Tuck Cheong
余德昌
Asst. Youth Chief

Ms Li Jin Haw
吕金皓
Asst. Student Division Chief

Ms Tan Yee Lian
陈依莲
Asst. Student Division Chief

4. Name : Dr Ng Huck Hui
 Chinese Characters : 黄学晖
 Age as of February 2005 : 33
 Occupation : Assistant Professor
 Department of Biological Sciences
 National University of Singapore

5. Name : Dr Edward Teo Ho Khoon
 Chinese Characters : 张和坤
 Age as of February 2005 : 31
 Occupation : Associate Professor
 Department of Physics
 National University of Singapore

6. Name : Ms Theresa Goh Rui Si
 Chinese Characters : 吴蕊思
 Age as of February 2005 : 18
 Occupation : Student

7. Name : Ms Li Jia Wei
 Chinese Characters : 李佳薇
 Age as of February 2005 : 23
 Occupation : Table Tennis Player

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION

1. Name : Dr Kong Hwai Loong
 Chinese Characters : 江慧龙
 Age as of February 2005 : 40
 Occupation : Director/Doctor
 H L Kong Medical Oncology Centre

2. Name : Mr Sheik Alau'ddin Bin Yacoob Marican
 Age as of February 2005 : 37
 Occupation : Technical Director
 Singapore Silat Federation