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EYA 2023/24 Award Certificate Ceremony

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In Focus

Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2023/24- Award Certificate Ceremony

Following is an extract from the speech by Past President (PP) Alan Tan, Co-Chairman of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2023/2024 Organising Committee, Rotary Club of Singapore, delivered at the EYA 2023/2024 Award Certificate Ceremony on 7 May 2024 at ParkRoyal Collection Marina Bay Singapore



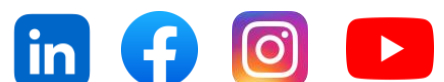
PP Alan Tan delivering his speech

Since its inception, the EYA has honoured more than 300 entrepreneurs. Today, I am very delighted that another 18 winners will join this special league. The recent EYA winners showcased remarkable resilience, resourcefulness, and unwavering determination, as they strive to excel in their respective fields. Their unwavering commitment propelled them to transform their ideas into reality, persistently adapting, occasionally innovating, and frequently challenging the status quo. The theme for EYA 2023/2024, 'Forging Forward, Shaping the Future,' wants to applaud visionary business leaders who defy conventions and navigate obstacles in the business landscape to achieve remarkable milestones. To succeed in this endeavour, entrepreneurs must embody ambition, foresight, and adaptability, seizing change and capitalizing on opportunities.

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In Focus

Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2023/24 - Award Certificate Ceremony... *contd*

In addition to recognizing entrepreneurial excellence, the EYA also emphasizes the importance of great leadership and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in today's business landscape. Great entrepreneurship is not only about financial success but also about exemplary leadership that cares for its people and the community. CSR entails businesses taking responsibility for their impact on society and the environment, extending beyond profit-making endeavours. It encompasses ethical business practices, environmental sustainability efforts, community engagement, and philanthropy. At EYA, we celebrate companies that exhibit not only business success but also a commitment to making positive contributions to their communities and the world. Through CSR initiatives, businesses demonstrate their dedication to creating a better and more sustainable future for all.

Among this year's winners is Mr Lawrence Luan, founder and CEO of Octopus8, a new tech leader in AI-powered business process outsourcing, providing intelligent automation solutions and services in customer service, technical support, digital services, and sales. With a vision to create sustainable impacts and positive changes for the world, and a mission to promote inclusivity and maximize business efficiency with innovative technology solutions, their CSR initiatives are deeply rooted in their commitment to making a difference in the lives of vulnerable groups. By providing employment opportunities to persons with disabilities, ex-offenders, individuals with special needs, seniors, and youth, they actively contribute to promoting inclusivity and empowering marginalized communities. Through these efforts, they have not only fulfilled their social responsibility but also aligned their business operations with their core value of inclusivity. By harnessing the talent and potential of all individuals, they can create a better society for all.

Another winner among this year's recipients is Mr Loo Rui Yi of Hurry General Contractor, whose journey exemplifies dedication and diligence, challenging misconceptions surrounding family businesses and showcasing true perseverance. Despite joining his father's business, he humbly began at the bottom, starting off in the most junior position. After spending a few years in administrative roles, he decided to challenge himself by transitioning to the sales department. A significant turning point in his entrepreneurial journey occurred during the COVID-19 period, which presented immense challenges for the company. With his father semi-retired and less active in the

business, the responsibility fell on him to ensure the continuity of operations and generate income to support the workforce. Despite the adversity, he not only kept the company afloat but also managed to generate profits, showcasing his unwavering determination and leadership in the face of adversity.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are just some of the many notable examples of how our winners have stood out from the crowd. It's important to note that these efforts are not limited to large corporations; even small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are increasingly focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. By embracing sustainability initiatives, ethical business practices, and community engagement, SMEs are playing a crucial role in driving positive social and environmental change alongside their larger counterparts. As co-organiser, the Rotary Club of Singapore is proud to be associated with all the winners. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to ASME for their partnership, to our main sponsor Maybank Singapore, to our silver partner Best World International for their generous support, and to Enterprise Singapore for their ongoing assistance as the awards supporting organisation.

In Focus

Photo Album of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA) 2023/24 - Award Certificate Ceremony



From left: PP Alan Tan, President Dr Chan Siew Luen, Rtn Toshi Omiyama, ASME President Mr Ang Yuit & Co-Chair Mr Tan Ching Hwee



Rtn Toshi Omiyama (centre) receives token of appreciation



PP Stan Low flanked by Mr Ang Yuit and President Siew Luen receives this token of appreciation

Project Report

Sungai Tohor Project Report

By: Rtn Varun Gulati



Rtn Varun Gulati

We took a ferry from Singapore to Batam on Friday, 19.4.24 at 7:20 pm and arrived in Batam at same time due to time difference.

Dinner was at Fatmawati at Mega Mall and headed to Swiss Bell Hotel for the night.

It was an early morning wake up at 5 am to leave for Sekupang ferry terminal as we took the 7 am ferry to Dumai.

Arrived at 10:30 am at Sungai Tohor where we were welcomed by Cik Manan and other riders who took us to his house to eat a sumptuous lunch.

We could not help ourselves but to notice the sago boiling and drying / cutting process at Cik Manan's house done by his own family members.

We did an interview with Cik Manan.

Post lunch we visited Eka office to see the water pumps, coffee shop and a primary school for special needs children. There are 5 pumps, of which 1 was a water body pump that would push large quantities of water out of the main water source. 3 pumps that would push the water to 1km or more, and 1 was a spray pump to put fire out early. All these pumps are taken care of through local automobile repairs shops.

We then went to taste honey from the bee keeping house, the bees were nonstinging ones. After which we went to do an official handover of drones donated for the purpose of identifying the fire hotspot in times of fire.

We then took the bikes to peat water bridge to see how the water colour is and what are the ways villagers have used to ensure mangroves stay hydrated.

Riders then took us to the sago factory, the only official industry of Desa Sungei Tohor Barat. The region has 5 Desa (villages) which Eka is working with. We saw how the tree barks are kept and stored in peat water so it lasts long, how the trunks are cut to take our sago and how then sago tree barks are used for fire or filling up walking space.

We met with rain and took a pit stop at the kibo coffee shop for some really nice ice coffee and banana chips.

Reached back at the house and changed to head to dinner with the secretary of the village chief.

The staple food at an Indonesian house in villages is white rice with chicken curry, stir fry tempeh, vegetables and a lot of sambal with different spice levels. The only food item change at most, is fish instead of Ayam (chicken).

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In Focus

Sungai Tohor Project Report... *contd*

After thanking all and giving gifts which Director of Environment Rtn Suresh Hathiramani brought for all, we left for mid night coffee at a warung cafe.

Called it a night at 10 pm so we could start early at 7 am the following day.

We started the following day by visiting peat land and nursery maintained by PM Haze through the people appointed by the government. The place was almost 30 mins on a potholed road toward the city centre. We walked through the bouncy forest which got bouncier as we walk further on the tea branches kept on the floor to move sago trunks. The bounce is mostly because of water level down below the soil of this fertile land. We all planted a sapling of different plants before we left to walk towards the newly built water canal wooden dam.

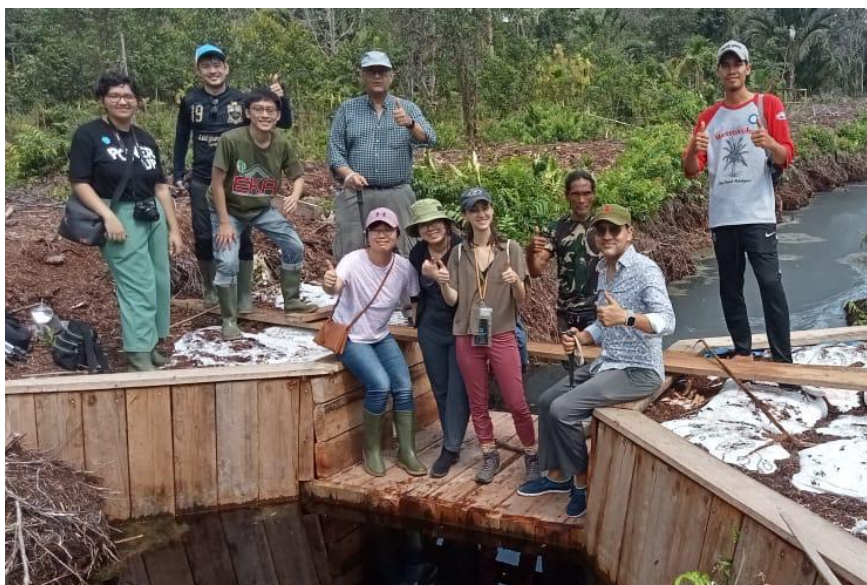
We then went to see the burnt area which caught fire in March (30 days ago) and how the ferns have again grown on it which mostly results in adding fuel to fire. The fire was put out by the equipment available with Eka.

We then stopped at the bridge to see this amazing peat water merger with the mangrove water merging with the sea.

By then, we were all mostly cooked under the beating sun and wanted a respite. We stopped briefly to see drone training in action and also operated drones to click our picture.

Last item before lunch was the dip in peat water. The swim was relaxing and the experience left all in awe.

A final lunch at Cik Manan's house and we were off to the jetty where we sat in a rather fully filled Dumai Express ferry on stools to reach Batam which took 4 hours.



At the peat water bridge

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In Focus

Photo Album of the Sungai Tohor Project



Arrival at the sago factory - 2nd from left Rtns Suresh Hathiramani & Varun Gulati with the project delegation



Processing of sago



Enjoying a sumptuous meal

Meeting Report

Summary of 4th and Final Club Assembly for Rotary Year 2023/2024 held on 8.5.2024.

Opening Remarks

President Dr Chan Siew Luen welcomed members to the final Club Assembly for the Rotary year.

Toast

Toastmaster Rtn Yogesh Dodani to raise a toast to Rotary International.



Rtn Yogesh Dodani

President's Announcements

- President Siew Luen reminded members of the two Club Awards - Rotarian of the Year Award (Dr Ee Peng Liang Trophy) and the Membership Development Award (Dr Arthur (A W S) Thevathasan Trophy) would not be bestowed for this Rotary Year. He called on members to familiarize themselves with the criteria for these Awards for their information and consideration of nominations in the coming years.
- RI Convention Volunteering – President Siew Luen called for members including their families to volunteer in the coming RI Convention. He highlighted the various volunteering opportunities, such as flag bearer for the opening ceremonies; hosting guides at airport terminals, MRT stations (various) Sands Expo and Convention Centre; House of Friendship (must be registered for the Convention).

To register as a volunteer/usher for jobs in and outside of the venue, please use the following links:

<https://rotarysingapore2024.org/volunteer/>

Click 'Register to volunteer', you will be redirected to the registration form:

'<https://2024sgriconvention.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer?id=73379>'

If you have any questions about volunteering or shifts, please email:

volunteer@roarysingapore2024.org

International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians

Rtn Varun Gulati advised that in conjunction with the R I Convention, the 18th International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians (ITFR) World Championship will be held in Singapore's Winchester Tennis Arena from 20-24.5.24. The fee of S\$500.00 will include the cocktail opening, awards dinner and t-shirt.

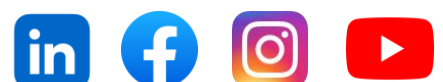
Rtn Varun called for participation in the tennis fellowship which was being hosted by the Club as well as for sponsors.

For more information on ITFR, please contact Rtn Varun Gulati at tel. no. +65-8823 0423 or email varun.rotary@gmail.com

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Meeting Report

Summary of 4th and Final Club Assembly for Rotary Year 2023/2024 held on 8.5.2024.

The Club Assembly continued with reports from the following:

1. Hon. Secretary Suzanne on Club Administration
2. Hon. Treasurer Keizo Fujitake on Club Finance
3. Director Raj Kumar's report on Meetings and Convention was presented by President Siew Luen
4. Director Ankit Khandelwal on The Rotary Foundation
5. Director Sean Leas on Membership
6. Director Pauline Teo's update on the Major Project was presented by President Siew Luen
7. Director Ong Ting Yong on Public Image & PR
8. Director Ting Yong presented the International Service Committee Report on behalf of Director Dr Rupesh Agrawal
9. PN & Director Sonali Sinha on Community Service
10. Director Vineet Iyengar on Vocational Service
11. Director Louisa Lee on Youth Service
12. Director Suresh Hathiramani on Environment and Sustainability

President Siew Luen thanked Directors for their reports and efforts. He further called on all members to come forward to participate in projects.

It was noted that prior to the Club Assembly and during fellowship, members were entertained by musical recitals from the talented flutist Ms Isabel Elliott and pianist Ms Larisa Tupitsyna who was no stranger to the Club.



Musical entertainment by pianist Ms Larisa and flutist Ms Isabel



From Left: President Dr Chan Siew Luen, Ms Isabel Elliott, Ms Larisa Tupitsyna

Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RCS sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:

DGN Dr Shahul Hameed for 14 May
Michael Galang for 17 May
HM Uttam Kripalani for 18 May
Vimal Narayanan for 18 May
Dr Ganesh Ramalingam for 19 May



Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

RCS sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants:

PP Mohan & Vatsala Mohandas
for 14 May



This Meeting

15 May 2024
Lunch Meeting @ 1.00pm

Speaker: His Excellency (H E) Dante Brandi, Ambassador of Italy to Singapore

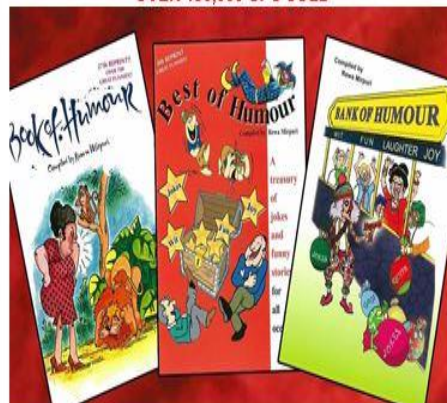
Topic: A soft response to hard times. The case for public diplomacy

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Next Meeting

22 May 2024

Meeting cancelled
in view of public holiday –
Vesak Day

Coming Rotary Events

May – Youth Service Month

17-19 May – 33rd District Conference @
Kuching

25-29 May – Rotary International
Convention, Singapore

27 May – Host Hospitality Night

June – Rotary Fellowships Month

22 Jun – Installation of the 90th
President & Board of Directors

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things, we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023/2024

President	Chan Siew Luen
Immediate Past President	James Lee
President Elect	Tom Wolf
Vice President	Frank Pao
Vice President	Ronald Wong
Hon. Secretary (Administration)	Suzanne Ng
Hon. Treasurer (Finance)	Keizo Fujitake
Community Service Committee (CSC) Director	Sonali Sinha
Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director	Vineet Iyengar
International Service Committee (ISC) Director	Rupesh Agrawal
Youth Service Committee (YSC) Director	Louisa Lee
Director of Environment	Suresh Hathiramani
Director of Technology	Lionel Otsuka
Director of Meetings & Conventions	Raj Kumar
Public Image & Public Relations Director	Ong Ting Yong
Major Project Chair	Pauline Teo
The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Director	Ankit Khandelwal
Membership Director	Sean Leas
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Chen
Sergeant-at-Arms	Priveen Suraj

