



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Singapore, 11 November 2022

### **NTU Singapore recognises its outstanding alumni at awards ceremony**

To celebrate its graduates' stellar achievements and contributions to the University and to society, **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)** today honoured 35 alumni at the **Nanyang Alumni Awards** ceremony.

The highest honour this year was bestowed on **Professor Tan Oon Seng**, Director at the Centre for Research in Child Development at the National Institute of Education, NTU (NIE NTU), and **Ms Sim Ann**, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of National Development, both recipients of the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health**, presented the awards to the recipients at the Nanyang Auditorium this evening. Mr Masagos, who is also the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, received the NTU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013.

**NTU President Professor Subra Suresh** said: "NTU has made major strides in forging a strong reputation as one of the leading global universities, despite its very short history, and has been placed in the distinguished company of great academic institutions that are centuries old. This impressive trajectory of NTU has benefited from the accomplishments of our alumni in Singapore and around the world who are increasingly recognised for their major contributions to industry, society and humanity."

### **Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award recipients**

**Ms Sim Ann** is among the pioneer cohort of students to complete the Graduate Diploma in Translation and Interpretation from the School of Humanities in 2006. Ms Sim who entered politics in 2011, has been an advocate for bilingualism and translation.

While at the Ministry of Education, she championed bilingualism through the establishment of the Mother Tongue Languages Symposium and served on the Board of the Lee Kuan Yew Fund for Bilingualism. She also chaired the National Translation Committee for two terms, working with industry practitioners and stakeholders to advance standards in translation.

Ms Sim said: “The Graduate Diploma in Translation and Interpretation programme was one of the most memorable and useful courses I have ever had the privilege of attending. I was fortunate in being able to work on a number of translation-related initiatives in the public sector after entering politics. Nothing gives me more pleasure than to do something for translation professionals.”

**Professor Tan Oon Seng**, who completed the PhD programme from the National Institute of Education (NIE) at NTU in 2001, has devoted much of his four-decade career to teacher education. As the Dean of Teacher Education at NIE, Prof Tan pioneered a model of teacher education for the 21st century.

Later, as Director of NIE, he played a significant role in revitalising NIE’s training programmes to raise the image and professionalism of teachers. This included helping to initiate the Teaching Scholars Programme, which offers future teachers interdisciplinary training and innovative pedagogical knowledge.

Prof Tan, whose research interests include teacher education, cognitive psychology, early childhood and problem-based learning, has been instrumental in bridging the research community to the education community. “Excellent education is about helping students thrive and develop their fullest potential, while equipping them with the skills and dispositions to adapt to changing environments,” said Prof Tan. “Bridging the research and education communities facilitates this goal of education, as they bring different perspectives and experiences that are both essential in building an effective education system.”

### **Shining a light on alumni achievements**

Outstanding alumni from diverse fields were celebrated in three other award categories: the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Among the **Nanyang Alumni Achievement** award recipients is **Mr Mohamed Abdul Akbar Mohamed Abdul Kader**, who was recognised for his contributions as a leader in the construction industry and the community. Currently the Managing Director of Nan Guan Construction Pte Ltd, Mr Akbar was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2020 for his service as part of the Workplace Safety and Health Council and the National Crane Safety Taskforce.

Mr Akbar has been a member of the NTU Alumni Council since 2016. Earlier this year, as part of NTU's "We Belong" campaign that encouraged its community to give back to society through volunteerism, he led an initiative to donate 800 refurbished laptops to the needy in the community.

Recalling his NTU days, the Class of 1986 graduate said: "The academic and support staff were a fantastic and dedicated group who showed us that in education, you need the whole village to rally around you. The experience of staying on campus and making many good friends from all walks of life and learning the need for better communication – all these had a great impact on my outlook on life and my career pursuits."

Also honoured with the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award was **Adjunct Assistant Professor Elva Zou Xin**, a Director and Regional Head of Merchant Growth and Strategic Operations at Grab. Trained as a materials scientist in NTU and Oxford, Dr Zou coaches NTU students in tech innovation, business acumen and leadership skills. She spent four years at the Energy Market Authority running projects related to electric vehicles and other energy-related R&D opportunities before pivoting to the tech industry.

Another recipient is Dr Vivien Chiong, NTU's Chief Communication Officer, who has been instrumental in revamping and repositioning the global profile of NTU in the last decade as the University rapidly ascended global rankings and became recognised as the world's fastest rising young university, and renowned for its beautiful and smart campus. She is known for her innovative use of technology in communication, from augmented reality to artificial intelligence.

Under Dr Chiong's leadership, NTU's Corporate Communications Office (CCO) has won more than 90 international and local awards for communication excellence and creativity. Recognised as a global communications leader with nine individual accolades, she is passionate about nurturing young communicators, with three CCO staff winning Young Communicator of the Year awards in the last three years.

**Mr Lawrence Wu** was also lauded for his efforts in lighting a solar-powered path for Singapore. In 2011, he co-founded clean energy solutions provider Sunseap Group with NTU alumnus Frank Phuan to provide solar energy as a service. Mr Wu is also the founder and investment partner of TRIERC Pte Ltd, one of the first and earliest climate-focused fund managers headquartered in Singapore.

### **Young alumni's stellar achievements recognised**

Among the 10 **Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni** awardees are **Mr Lau Jiakai**, who co-founded TreeDots, Asia's first wholesale distributor of surplus and imperfect

food supplies in Southeast Asia that has rescued more than 2,500 tonnes of food waste; and **Dr Sandhya Sriram**, who co-founded ShioK Meats, the first cell-based seafood and meat company in Southeast Asia and the first cell-based crustacean company globally.

Another 15 alumni received the **Nanyang Alumni Service Award** for their dedication and voluntary service to the University through its alumni clubs and associations.

See the [Annex](#) below for the full list of 2022 Nanyang Alumni Award winners.

NTU today has more than 275,000 alumni representing 159 nationalities. To better engage and connect with its global alumni community, the University has established 98 Alumni Associations in Singapore and overseas, and 25 Alumni Circles in countries or cities with small numbers of alumni.

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***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 33,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Engineering, Business, Science, Medicine, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI) and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, over

95% of its building projects are certified Green Mark Platinum. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

## **ANNEX**

### **Nanyang Alumni Awards 2022**

#### **Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award**

1. Prof Tan Oon Seng
2. Ms Sim Ann

#### **Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award**

1. Mr Mohamed Abdul Akbar Bin Mohamed Abdul Kader
2. Mr Tan Tiang Yew Irving
3. Ms Teo Lan See Sharon
4. Mr Quek Gim Cheng Charles
5. Dr Vivien Chiong
6. Mr Wu Jueh Ming Lawrence
7. Mr Malminderjit Singh
8. Adj Asst Prof Elva Zou Xin

#### **Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award**

1. Mr Mark Zhou You Chuan
2. Dr James Lim Soo Ghim
3. Dr Bernard Ricardo Widjaja
4. Clinical Asst Prof Ku Chee Wai
5. Mr Liu Xiaoyi
6. Mr Adamas Belva Syah Devara
7. Dr Sandhya Sriram
8. Ms Serene Cai Huiting
9. Mr Lau Jia Cai
10. Mr Mohammed Farhan Bin Mohd Firdaus

#### **Nanyang Alumni Service Award**

1. Mr Ang Ker Ser
2. Mr Abhimanyu Bhola
3. Mr Gao Hui
4. Mr Chia Chun Sian Aaron
5. Mr Li Xiang
6. Mr Gnanavelu Arulmurugan
7. Mr Tomoyuki Suzuki
8. Mr Ci Feng
9. Mr Hua Guikan

10. Mr Nevin Ong Guo Chao
11. Ms Lin Yu-Ling
12. Mr Ai Xiran
13. Ms Liu Runan
14. Mr Ng Jia Jun Justin
15. Mr Prashant Bhalchandra Nayak

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