

NTU honours outstanding alumni at annual homecoming



Also launches eight mobile-learning courses for working professionals

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) is honouring 37 alumni for their stellar achievements and contributions to the University and to society at its annual alumni Homecoming event this evening.

The three recipients of the **Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award** – the highest honour for NTU's alumni – **Mr Lim Chow Kiat**, Managing Director and CEO of GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund; **Adjunct Professor Tan Chin Hwee**, Asia-Pacific CEO for global commodities logistic giant Trafigura Group; and **Dato' Sri Dr Tahir**, Founder of the Mayapada Group, one of Indonesia's leading conglomerates.

NTU President Professor Subra Suresh said, "Our alumni, who are our strongest advocates and ambassadors, have had a major impact in various fields ranging from business and engineering, to humanities and public service."

Guest-of-Honour **Minister for Health Mr Gan Kim Yong** will present the **Nanyang Alumni Awards** at the ceremony attended by 1000 alumni and guests held at NTU's iconic sports hall, The Wave.

This year, the alumni Homecoming is held in conjunction with the inaugural **Learning Technologies Festival** that aims to inspire NTU alumni to experience the latest technology trends and innovation,

including virtual reality, robotics and mobile learning. As part of the festival, NTU is also launching eight mobile-learning courses aimed at equipping professionals with the latest Industry 4.0 skills.

Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

Nanyang Business School alumnus **Mr Lim Chow Kiat** is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of GIC which manages Singapore's foreign reserves and has well over US\$100 billion in assets. Always keen to contribute to his alma mater, Mr Lim has since 2015, served on the NTU Board of Trustees. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of NTU's Wealth Management Institute.

On the benefits he gained as an NTU student, Mr Lim said, "I am grateful for my education at NTU as it enabled me to acquire a breadth of knowledge and prepare me for my career. At NTU, I had the opportunity to do courses in law, statistics, communication, IT and organisational behaviour."

Also a Nanyang Business School alumnus and a member of the NTU Board of Trustees, **Adjunct Professor Tan Chin Hwee** is the first Asian to be appointed Chief Executive Officer for the Asia-Pacific region for global commodities logistic giant Trafigura Group.

Formerly a Managing Director at American multi-strategy hedge fund Amaranth Advisors, Prof Tan had humble beginnings, having grown up in a one-room flat in Toa Payoh. Together with a group of friends, he helped to distribute necessities to those living in one-bedroom flats.

A strong believer in paying it forward, Prof Tan had more than 40 mentees at one point, and while at leading global alternative investment firm Apollo Global Management, he also helped to set up a mentoring programme at CFA Society Singapore. Prof Tan said, "I believe in paying it forward by being a mentor. I can share my experiences and guide younger people in achieving the best that they can."

Dato' Sri Dr Tahir, the Founder of the Mayapada Group that has interests in the banking, healthcare and real estate sectors, has received numerous accolades over the course of his career. He was recently conferred the prestigious Bintang Mahaputra Naraya medal by Indonesian President Joko Widodo - the first Chinese recipient of this medal.

The Commerce graduate from Nanyang University (Nantah) has made generous gifts towards various initiatives in healthcare, education and legal reformation through the Tahir Foundation.

The philanthropist said, "My parents made pedicabs, a three-wheel rickshaw, so I understand what it means to experience poverty. Having benefitted from a good education, I strongly believe in the principle of 'built by the society, for the society'."

NTU alumni shine in various fields

Outstanding alumni from diverse fields will also be recognised in three other award categories, namely the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Amongst the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award recipients are Assistant Director-General of the National Trades Union Congress **Mr Yeo Guat Kwang**, **Ms Tan Aik Na**, NTU's Vice President for Administration, the President Director and CEO of PT. Trans Retail Indonesia **Mr Shafie Bin Shamsuddin**, and community leader **Mr Lim Cheng Eng**.

A graduate from the postgraduate diploma in education programme at the National Institute of Education, **Mr Yeo** was a former Member of Parliament who championed the welfare of workers and played a key role in pushing for the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act as President for the Consumers Association of Singapore.

Since joining NTU as Vice President for Administration in August 2016, **Ms Tan** has accelerated the transformation of the University's administrative functions and organisation to support NTU's continued growth ambitions. In 2011, the Nanyang Business School alumna was the first Asian woman in chemical giant DuPont's 210-year history to be appointed global CFO of its world-leading Titanium Technologies business.

Mr Shafie is the former CEO of Carrefour Singapore and Malaysia – a position he attained in 10 years, a notable achievement as he joined Carrefour Singapore shortly after graduating from Nanyang Business School. He is now a respected leader in retail.

Always eager to contribute his knowledge and expertise, **Mr Lim** has served in different roles across community and trade organisations, including the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Singapore-China Business Association, as well as the Lim See Tai Chong Soo clan association.

Entrepreneur **Mr Albert Zhang Yizhong** is the founder of NTU start-up AiTreat, known for its massage therapist Emma that performs traditional acupoint massage. More than 20 companies globally have expressed an interest in Emma. The School of Biological Sciences graduate is the recipient of the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Fellow recipient **Ms Nur Syahidah Binte Alim** is a graduate from the M.Sc. (Knowledge Management) programme. Born with cerebral palsy, she was part of Singapore's first-ever archery squad at the 2015 ASEAN Para Games, making history with gold medals in the Women's Compound and Mixed Team Compound events.

(Refer to **Annex A** for the full list of Nanyang Alumni Award winners)

Learning Technologies Festival

The inaugural Learning Technologies Festival targeting NTU alumni features micro-seminars and sharing sessions by industry partners, which include diverse topics such as blockchain, robotics application and achieving success.

The Festival also features an exhibition on the latest learning technologies, such as virtual reality, augmented reality and mobile learning technologies.

Reaffirming the university's commitment to engage its alumni and promote lifelong learning, **Professor Subra Suresh** said, "Lifelong learning is very important, and more so with the rise of Industry 4.0 where we are seeing how technology is disrupting the way we live, work and play. We need to keep abreast of new skills and technologies, and we want to help our alumni to do so too, for their personal growth and development.

"As such, we have launched our very first Learning Technologies Festival especially for our alumni. The Festival aims to inspire our alumni, both young and old, to discover the latest technology trends and innovation, and learn through such new technologies."

Launch of new mobile learning courses

The eight mobile-learning courses by NTU are aimed at upskilling working professionals. Open to alumni and the public, the courses cover highly relevant and current topics such as data analytics, cybersecurity and modern software technologies.

These courses will be offered through a new mobile application learning platform known as **DeltaKnEW Academy**, developed by NTU's College of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE College) and the Delta-NTU Corporate Lab.

The mobile app will be available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play from today, 13 October 2018.

(Refer to **Annex B** for more information on the new Industry 4.0 courses and the new mobile app) To encourage NTU alumni to sign up for the new courses, applicants can apply for SkillsFuture subsidies of between 70 to 90 per cent, depending on eligibility.

To further offset the course fees, alumni can utilise their NTU Alumni Course Credits which may see them pay only a nominal fee from the original \$400 fee per course.

(Refer to **Annex C** for more details on the course subsidies)

The new mobile-learning courses add to the 65 existing Industry 4.0 courses under the SkillsFuture initiative offered by NTU.

In total, NTU offers 185 SkillsFuture courses.

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