

**ADDRESS BY MR ALAN TAN, PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE
DELIVERED AT THE ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2015, AWARD PRESENTATION
CEREMONY, 27 NOVEMBER 2015, THE RITZ-CARLTON, MILLENIA SINGAPORE.**

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Guest of Honour,
Mr Lim Swee Say,
Minister for Manpower;

Mr Kurt Wee,
President,
Association of Small and Medium Enterprises;

Mr Linus Goh, Head,
Global Commercial Banking,
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited / OCBC Bank;

Fellow Rotarians,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

A very good evening to all of you.

Not too long ago, we announced the beginning of this year's award. After a challenging and exciting few months, we have finally arrived at the final league of The Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 - an evening many have been looking forward to. Thank you for joining us here this evening, as we gather once again to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship and to announce this year's winners.

As the President of the Rotary Club of Singapore, I have witnessed the growth of this award through the local media and strongly support its objective of recognising and rewarding our local business leaders.

Inaugurated in 1989, this award was constructed on solid grounds and today, I am proud to see it grow into one of the highest business

accolades that our local business owners strive to achieve year after year. Like every business with a sound business structure, this award has also continued to improve itself over time.

Once again, we are pleased to join hands with our co-organiser – the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises as we take the awards to new grounds.

Our participants for the Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 come from varied backgrounds, making the judging process more challenging and exciting. One of the key highlights at this year's award is the diversity of the final who are present with us tonight. They have shown business excellence in various industries, such as the food and beverage arena, manufacturing and engineering sector. We also have representatives who have excelled in various different fields such as architecture, healthcare and sustainable energy.

These business achievers all have a special story to share and their entrepreneurial journey will serve as an inspiration to all aspiring entrepreneurs. I believe more importantly, they all have Ambitions, the Driver of Success.

It is this Ambition that we must draw hope from. In line with the main objective of Rotary for this award, we want to reinforce and encourage our local entrepreneurs to not only push through in the face of setbacks, but to continue to foster high ethical business standards in their respective industries, leading by examples and encouraging others to also adopt good corporate and social responsibility throughout their entrepreneurial journey. And lastly, of course to give back to the society we have received so much from.

There will never be an ideal time to contribute back to the community. The time is now. It does not matter how much is being returned to the society, but more importantly, where the heart lies when the contribution is made. As you make your kind gesture, remember that you are also sharing your success with others. This enriches and completes the whole experience of your achievements.

Tonight, each and every one of these top 16 entrepreneurs has displayed their unique ability to balance the pressures of starting their own business with the need to be a responsible corporate citizen.

They have survived the many exhaustive rounds of intensive judging and scrutiny of their business with confidence and a positive attitude. They are indeed all winners tonight.

The excitement is indeed building up! To the top 16, you have all done well, so at this point, relax and do enjoy the evening. Ladies and gentlemen, once again thank you for being part of tonight's celebration. Our stars for tonight will be presented to all in the next hour.

To our main sponsor OCBC Bank, Official Whisky Chivas Regal, Infocomms Partner StarHub, Official Media Partner Channel NewsAsia and our supporting organisations iDA Singapore, ie Singapore, SPRING Singapore and Institute of Standard Chartered Accountants – thank you for your support and we look forward to your continued partnership in this award.

Last but not least, congratulations to our Top Entrepreneurs – you are all winners in your own right. All of you have the ambition to succeed. And you will.

On behalf of The Rotary Club of Singapore, thank you for coming and have a pleasant evening ahead.