

NUS News

Top Menu

- [myEmail](#)
- [IVLE](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Map](#)
- [Calendar](#)

Search



- [Home](#)
- [Highlights](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [News Media](#)
- [Knowledge Enterprise](#)
- [Press Room](#)

NUS News

- [Home](#)
- [Highlights](#)
- Alumni honoured for outstanding contributions

Alumni honoured for outstanding contributions

Details

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Category: [Highlights](#)

- [Print](#)

At a gala dinner on 8 November 2013, the NUS community celebrated the achievements of 15 exceptional alumni. The recipients were presented with the prestigious NUS Alumni Awards that honour alumni who have shown excellence in various fields locally and internationally, in appreciation of their contributions to the University and the community.

Five NUS alumni were bestowed the Distinguished Alumni Service Awards for their remarkable achievements as well as extraordinary and continuous services to NUS, its predecessor institutions or the alumni community. They are:

- Mr David Ho, Managing Director, Windmill International Pte Ltd;
- Mr Koe Khoon Poh, Founder and Managing Director, ICM Pharma Pte Ltd;

- Mr Edward Lee, Senior International Adviser to Harsono Strategic Consulting and former Singapore's Ambassador to Indonesia from 1994 to 2006;
- Professor Leo Tan, Director (Special Projects), Faculty of Science, NUS; and
- Mr Lucien Wong, Chairman and Senior Partner, Allen & Gledhill LLP and Chairman of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

Law alumnus Mr Wong, who graduated from the University of Singapore in 1978, was happily surprised by the unexpected accolade. Although he previously served on the NUS Board of Trustees and his firm has established an Allen & Gledhill Scholarship for law undergraduates, he was modest about his contributions. Mr Wong remembered how he enjoyed his studies, with fond memories of representing his faculty for debates in moot competitions. "The training of the mind is something you carry with you for the rest of your life," he said. He aptly applied the acquired skill to his career, becoming a leading expert who shares his experiences and tirelessly supports the legal profession.

NUS also recognised 10 young alumni for their leadership and noteworthy qualities, as well as for their admirable and sustained contributions to their chosen fields, NUS or its alumni community. Among the Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipients were Dr Yeo Sze Ling, an Agency for Science and Technology Research (A*STAR) research scientist whose indomitable spirit and fortitude triumphed over her visual impairment; Dr Kumaran Rasappan, a medical doctor who raised funds for the disadvantaged in Singapore and Nepal while embarking on his journey to scale Mount Everest; and Dr Valerie Teo, a national bowler who has represented Singapore globally, while dedicating time to help patients and volunteer in community projects.

 alumni-2

Dr Yeo, who received her Bachelor and PhD degrees in Science from NUS in 2001 and 2006 respectively, was humbled to be chosen for the award. Blind since four, she nevertheless overcame her handicap to excel academically, as well as mentors visually disabled students and volunteers with the Society for the Physically Disabled. "NUS has always been very special to me as I spent many years here," said Dr Yeo. She admitted being apprehensive where a degree would lead her, but her training at the University built up her confidence which ultimately led her to her current job. What stood out most for her during the University days was "the human factor" - friends, teachers and staff who went out of their way to help her and made her life at NUS fulfilling.

NUS President Professor Tan Chorh Chuan noted that this year's award winners stand out through their achievements, leadership and dedicated service to the community, excelling in their own fields but also contributing in various ways. "They inspire us to pursue excellence with passion and unwavering commitment and to do our part for our community," he said.

Please refer to the [Annex](#) for the full list of NUS Alumni Awards 2013 recipients.

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- [< Prev](#)
- [Next >](#)

Main Menu

- [Home](#)
- [Highlights](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [News Media](#)
- [Knowledge Enterprise](#)
- [Press Room](#)

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