



**Embargoed for Distribution only after 9 July 2019, 10.00pm.**

**SINGAPORE, 9 July 2019 – Today, 12 outstanding women entrepreneurs from diverse industries, ranging from real estate and resources investments (Ms Chew Gek Khim, Executive Chairman, Tecity Group & Straits Trading Company Limited) to alcohol beverages distribution and supply chain (Dato’ Elaine Teh, Executive Chairman, Octopus Global Holdings) and funeral services (Ang Jolie Mei, Managing Director, The Life Celebrant Pte Ltd), were honoured for their distinguished excellence and contribution to the community at the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition - the Women Entrepreneur Awards (WEA) 2019.**

Winners received their awards from **Guest of Honour, Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Grand Ballroom.**

WEA 2019 awarded 4 categories of women winners from the *Supernova, Nova, Pulsar to Stellar* categories, which aims to recognize inspiring women entrepreneurs across different revenue performances, and have provided tremendous contributions to the business and social community. WEA also awarded, across categories, for Best Growth and Most Innovative awards.

All winners will go on to join the Women Entrepreneur Club (WE Club), accessing them to high net-worth networking events, mentoring and learning opportunities.

Ms Stephanie Cheo, Chairperson of the WEA, elaborated, “Three years ago, WEA was started to address a need to provide women entrepreneurs a closer network for support and inspiration. The WEA, together with the Women Entrepreneur (WE) Club, has grown in strength since our inauguration, and we have reached out to more than 1,000 women entrepreneurs in the business community in just three years. Our vision is to connect, unite and grow this network of women entrepreneurs in Singapore, with the help and support of governmental agencies such as Enterprise Singapore, Skills Future Singapore and Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore.

On accepting the highest honours, the WEA Supernova award, at WEA 2019, Ms Chew commented, “The difficulty that women have today is that we are often not in a network. The network of women entrepreneurs, like any network, is valuable. Entrepreneurship in itself is very difficult, it can be very lonely. If you find people you can bond with or understand you, you can get help and that makes a difference.”

**12 WEA Award Winners across varied industries** - The overall winners, including Ms Chew Gek Khim, Executive Chairman, Tecity Group and Straits Trading Company Limited, for **Supernova Winner**, Dato’ Elaine Teh, Octopus Global Holdings Pte Ltd, for **Overall Nova Winner**, Yola Yu Jie, Co-Founder, Starry Homestead Pte Ltd, for **Overall Pulsar Winner** and Lena Tang, Chief Executive Officer, E- Capital Limousine Pte Ltd, for **Stellar-Most Promising Woman Entrepreneur**.



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The 12 winners emerged from a pool of more than 50 nominees who have run companies of less than \$1 million turnover to established firms with more than \$100 million. They were chosen by a panel of luminaries, including Ms Claire Chiang, Co-founder, Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts, Ms Tin Pei Ling and Dr Lim Wee Kiak, Members of Parliament, Ms Chew Mok Lee, Assistant Chief Executive, Enterprise Singapore, Mr Tan Wee Beng, Deputy Chief Executive, Skills Future Singapore just to mention a few.

Winners included:

***WEA 2019 Supernova – Ms Chew Gek Khim, Executive Chairman, Tecity Group and Straits Trading Company Limited***

Ms Chew Gek Khim is the Executive Chairman of The Straits Trading Company Limited, founded in 1887 as a tin smelting company but is today an investment company with diversified interests across the Asia Pacific. First appointed Non-Executive and Non-Independent Chairman in 2008, she has since held the position of Executive Chairman from 1 November 2009.

Ms Chew is also Executive Chairman of the Tecity Group, which she joined in 1987. She is Chairman of Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad and ARA Trust Management (Suntec) Limited, and sits on the Board of ARA Asset Management Holdings Pte Ltd as well as Singapore Exchange Limited. She is also the Deputy Chairman of Tan Chin Tuan Foundation in Singapore and Chairman of Tan Sri Tan Foundation in Malaysia.

An accomplished leader and well-respected figure in the corporate field, Ms Chew was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite in 2010, the Singapore Businessman of the Year 2014 at the Singapore Business Awards, and the Meritorious Service Medal at the National Day Awards in 2016. She was also named Forbes 50's most powerful business women of Asia in 2014.

***About the WEA Supernova Award***

The *Supernova* recognizes inspiring women leaders who run and own a successful business, and is well respected in the community for her vast contributions to both the nation and society. The recipient is nominated and elected by the consensus of the judging panel.



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**WEA 2019 Nova (Overall Winner) – Dato’ Elaine Teh, Executive Chairman, Octopus Global Holdings Pte Ltd**

Dato’ Elaine Teh forayed into the food and beverage industry in 2002 by starting a company as a turnkey lifestyle services provider, surrounding public entertainment and F&B lifestyle concepts. This formed the genesis of Octopus Group and was first of such companies in the entertainment lifestyle industry in Singapore. Underpinned by its innovative business model, Octopus Group became a huge success and went on to become the market leader with over 80 nightlife outlets in Singapore.

*About the WEA Nova Award* - The *Nova* is awarded to women entrepreneurs who have been operating the business for a period of more than 5 years with at least \$10 million revenue, and demonstrate outstanding leadership in the growth of their business.

*Other winners of the Nova category include:* Ms Elsie Liow, Managing Director, AIMS Immigration Specialist Pte Ltd.

**WEA 20129 Pulsar (Overall Winner) – Yola Yu Jie, Co-Founder, Starry Homestead Pte Ltd**

Co-founder of a full-service accredited interior design firm with three showrooms across the country, 33-year-old Yola Yu Jie leads a 30-strong team to create interior spaces that aren’t just beautiful and stylish, but also serve as sanctuaries in which memories are made. She believes in nurturing creative talents who are more than capable in envisioning and offering ideal spaces for homes and commercial premises alike, defined by impeccable craftsmanship and affordability.

*About the WEA Pulsar Award* - *The Pulsar* is awarded to women who have been operating the business for a period of at least 3 years with revenue of \$1 million but not exceeding \$10 million, and showcase strong entrepreneurial qualities in business development.

*Other winners of the Pulsar category include:* Ang Jolie Mei (Managing Director, The Life Celebrant Pte Ltd), Jamie Koh (Founder, Brass Lion Pte Ltd), Simone Ng (Executive Creative Director, Simone Jewels Pte Ltd) and Novie Djayatanti Tjoa (Managing Director, Eatz Group Pte Ltd).



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**WEA 2019 Stellar (Most Promising Woman Entrepreneur) – Lena Tang (CEO, E Capital Limousine Pte Ltd)**

Despite an unfamiliarity with the limousine services industry when Lena Tang first started 3 years ago, nothing posed a deterrent for her, who now owns and runs E Capital, that provides bespoke limousine services to international corporate customers and specialises in ferrying influential and high-net-worth individuals around Singapore. Through Ms Tang's leadership, the company's first three years marked a period of stellar growth. Established with a full scale of 24-hour, 365-days operations supported by a team of professionals, the company garnered a pool of 150 drivers and employed ten full-time drivers.

*About the WEA Stellar Award* - The *Stellar* is awarded to the most promising entrepreneurs who have been operating the business for the period of no more than 3 years, open to both tech and non-tech startups.

Other winners of the *Stellar* category include: Ang Jin Yuan (Founder & Director, Style Lease LLP), Jyoti Singh (Founder & Creative Director, Jo Kilda Pte Ltd) and Nerissa Low (Founder & CEO, LIHT Organics Pte Ltd).

**2 Special WEA Commendation Award Winners – Best Growth & Most Innovative**

The **WEA 2019 Best Growth Award** goes to Ms Elsie Liow, Managing Director, AIMS Immigration Specialist Pte Ltd. Ms Liow achieved exponential growth and leapfrogged from Pulsar to Nova winner status in less than 2 years, making her the first WEA winner who re-joined the award at a higher category.

The **WEA 2019 Most Innovative Award** will be presented to Ms Ang Jolie Mei, Managing Director, The Life Celebrant Pte Ltd, for gamechanging the traditional funeral services industry with innovative end of life services.

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## **Women Entrepreneur Awards (WEA)**

Inaugurated in Singapore in 2016, WEA started with a singular mission to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of women in Singapore. Today, this award has extended to a host of Women Entrepreneurs' initiatives to drive the development and growth of women entrepreneurs, from mentoring, education, networking to capital raising opportunities.

### **WEA 2019 Panel of Judges**

- Mr Lawrence Leow, Chairman & CEO, Crescendas Group
- Ms Elim Chew, Founder, 77<sup>th</sup> Street
- Mr Kenny Sim, CEO, i2 Capital
- Mr Lennon Tan, Group Chairman, ADERA Group
- Ms Claire Chiang, Co-Founder, Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts
- Mr Chia Khim Huat, Regional Head, Corporate & Transaction Practice, Rajah & Tann Singapore
- Ms Chew Mok Lee, Assistant Chief Executive, ICM & Digitalisation, Enterprise Services & New industries, Enterprise Singapore
- Mr Tan Wee Beng, Deputy Chief Executive, SkillsFuture Singapore
- Dr Lim Wee Kiak, PBM, Member of Parliament, CEO, Eagle Eye Centre
- Ms Tin Pei Ling, Member of Parliament, CEO, Business China
- BG (NS) Chan Wing Kai, Director, Seed Global Investment
- Mr Neo Sing Hwee, Managing Director, Head, Operation System & Control, Mapletree Investment Pte Ltd

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