Budding businesses recognised at 16th Emerging Enterprise Awards

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THE 2023 edition of the Emerging Enterprise Awards last Thursday (Nov 23) saw accolades handed out to a slate of rising young companies, including some from countries beyond Singapore.

Organised by The Business Times, the yearly segment by the business news title's and OCBC, the awards seek to recognise startups and young companies that have shown that determination, business innovation, resilience and excellence. They also seek to connect these companies with a network of talking resources to help them reach their full potential.

This year's edition marked the first time applications were made open to companies from around the region. Thirty finalists were selected from some 100 applications, a record high for the awards. Some of the finalists were companies with regional markets outside of Singapore, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

The finalists converged at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia for the awards ceremony, where winners received accolades in three categories.

Taking home the Emerging Enterprise Award were two companies based in Singapore — Inno Healthcare Investments — and Malaysia-based Prokris Labs.

The win were recognised for their business performances underpinned by sustainable practices, strong revenue and growth, as well as their potential and ability to scale revenues.

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Above: Emerging Enterprise Awards 2023 winners (from left) Chin Kui Lai, CEO, ProBioPhic; Craig Gooming, COO, Troopers Innovation; Raghan Narayan, CEO, AprilJuel; Ng Yi Ling, CEO, Inno Healthcare Investments; Chan Yue Lin, CEO, S&E Innovations; Steven Tong, CEO, Pan-Pak Hydrogen Developments; Kang Jee Siew, CEO, Rollex Group; Shyan Shi, CEO, M22 Battery Materials. PHOTO: ST

Above: Senior Minister of State Tan Kiat How at the Emerging Enterprise Award Ceremony and Gala 2023 with (from left) Ng Yi Ling, CEO, Inno Healthcare Investments; Chan Yue Lin, CEO, OCBC head of emerging business and commercial banking cash; Geoffrey Tan, assistant CEO, Enterprise Singapore, and SPH Media Trust English/Malay/Tamil Media Group editor-in-chief Vera Wei Kung.

Left: Lihou Goh, OCBC head of global commercial banking, delivering his welcome speech. Above: From left: Lin Kui Lai, CEO, ProBioPhic; Steven Tong, CEO, Pan-Pak Hydrogen Developments; Craig Gooming, COO, Troopers Innovation.

Above: Guests at the Emerging Enterprise Awards Ceremony and Gala 2023 viewing an introduction video of the finalists.

Emerging Enterprise Awards 2023 winner for MFI Cohort Healthcare: Marcus Global Payroll; Pan-Pak Hydro; ProBioPhic; Rapeli; Prokris Labs; Pan Lagjec; Rollex Group; Business editor Chan Hui Ben; Senior Minister of State Tan Kiat How; OCBC head of global commercial banking Lihou Goh; Troopers Innovation; AprilJuel Global Holdings; Troopers Innovation; M22 Battery Materials; Mitsu Insight; SimpliPhiNiC Nanolubric; Nano Eko Labs.

Above: At Finalists for the Emerging Enterprise Awards 2023. This is the first year the awards have gone green and regional, with the introduction of the new Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award, and the opening of applications to regional contenders.

Left: Winners of the Emerging Enterprise Award 2023 (from left) Chin Kui Lai, CEO, ProBioPhic; Steven Tong, Tan, CEO, Cores Healthcare; Craig Gooming, COO, Troopers Innovation, at the first campaign hore for the winners of the Emerging Enterprise Award.

Above: from left: SPH Media Trust English/Malay/Tamil Media Group editor-in-chief Vera Wei Kung; Senior Minister of State Tan Kiat How; The Business Times editor Chan Hui Ben; OCBC head of global commercial banking Lihou Goh; Troopers Innovation co-founder and chief executive officer Craig Gooming; OCBC head of emerging business and commercial banking cash, Geoffrey Tan; Raghan Narayan, CEO, AprilJuel; and Asma Chang, head of serial entrrepreneur segment, global commercial banking, OCBC.

Above: Emerging Enterprise Award judges (from left) Wasi G Gair, partner, M&A and Soh Lung Wee, assistant CEO, manufacturing and engineering, Enterprise Singapore. Right: The trophy for the Emerging Enterprise Awards 2023, the awards seek to recognise the young, bold ambition of businesses under 10 years old.

Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award finalists (from far left) BSL Eco Energy; Hashstacs; Anywheel; Insect Feed Technologies; Aprisium; N&E Innovations; Tiny Pod; *The Business Times* editor Chen Huifen; SMS Tan Kiat How; Ecosmart Solar Power; OCBC head of global commercial banking Linus Goh; Redex Group; Flex Fuel Hydrogen Development; Sharkgulf Technologies Group; NEU Battery Materials; Global Enviro Holding; Growthwell Group; Zero Waste Solution. PHOTOS: JASPER YU

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This year's Emerging Enterprise Awards also marked its foray into tackling the climate crisis, with the introduction of the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award. The award honours businesses that prioritise sustainability; employ technology and innovative solutions to create a low-carbon future; and capitalise on green-economy growth opportunities.

Clinching the award were two Singapore-based companies – Redex Group and N&E Innovations – as well as Flex Fuel Hydrogen Development from Hong Kong.

A second new accolade – the Most Promising Sustainability Startup – was also launched. This award, which recognises startups that have developed unique, commercially viable solutions with long-term potential, went to Aprisium and NEU Battery Materials, both Singapore-based companies.

"It is very encouraging to see the bumper crop of submissions from the region this year, representing a broad range of industries," said Christie Chu, head of emerging business and commercial banking cash at OCBC. Chu was also the chief judge at this year's awards. The diversity of applicants was reflected in the crop of finalists, which hailed from industries such as waste management, human resources, food and beverage, and healthtech.

"This signals that establishing the new Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award and opening up submissions to the region were the right moves to meet growing demand from SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) for a platform to have their achievements recognised."

Each of the winners at this year's Emerging Enterprise Awards will receive a two-year interest-free loan of up to S$200,000 – or the equivalent in local currency for overseas winners – from OCBC. From *The Business Times*, the winners will be given publicity in print, digital and social media platforms, as well as radio and podcasts, for Singapore and the region.

Winners of the Emerging Enterprise Award – Conex Healthcare, ProfilePrint and Troopers Innovation – will each also receive from professional services firm RSM a business consulting package worth S$30,000.

Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information and National Development, was the guest of honour at last Thursday's awards ceremony. He lauded companies for their resilience amid a difficult landscape, citing destabilising factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic and technological disruption.

BT editor Chen Huifen noted that the finalists at this year's Emerging Enterprise Awards were breaking barriers to fill gaps in the market. "We are encouraged by this year's crop of finalists, many of which had clear vision and growth pathways, and the courage to challenge conventional processes and thinking to create niches for themselves."

Above, from left: *The Business Times* editor Chen Huifen; Flex Fuel Hydrogen Development CEO Steven Fong; Senior Minister of State Tan Kiat How; and OCBC head of global commercial banking Linus Goh. Flex Fuel Hydrogen Development is the first company from Hong Kong to win the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award. Below: Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award judges (from left) Timothy Colyer, head of climate and sustainability, Asia-Pacific, Oliver Wyman; and Geoffrey Yeo, assistant CEO, Enterprise Singapore.

Top: Bryan Oh, CEO, NEU Battery Materials, which won the Most Promising Sustainability Startup Award. Above: Senior Minister of State Tan Kiat How (right) presenting the Most Promising Sustainability Startup Award to Raghav Narayan, CEO, Aprisium.

Top: Didi Gan, CEO, N&E Innovations, which won the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award. Above: Kang Jen Wee, CEO, Redex, which also took home the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award.

Above: Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award judges (from left) Jonathan Yuen, head of commercial litigation and employment, Rajah and Tann Asia, with Corrado Forcellati, managing director, Paia Consulting. Left, from far left: Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award judge Radiana Soh, director for chemical, materials and safety, A*Star; with finalists Zechary Hoe, COO and Sean Tan, CEO, from Insect Feed Technologies; and Justin Chou, CEO, Growthwell Group. Right, from left: WhiteCoat Global CEO Bryan Koh with OCBC global commercial banking relationship manager Chiang Wen Jun.

From left: Nicholas Teh, head of emerging business international, OCBC; Roy Tan, head of enterprise banking international, OCBC; Ruby Yiu, head of emerging business, OCBC Hong Kong; Iris Ng, head of middle market for global commercial banking, OCBC; Thia Shi-Ling, head of trading, manufacturing and services, global commercial banking, OCBC; Christie Chu, head of emerging business and commercial banking cash, OCBC; Victor Cheng, head of emerging business risk, credit risk management, OCBC; Rashida Ismail, head of sales, emerging business global enterprise banking, OCBC; Lisa-Marie Ng, head of business development, middle market and services, OCBC; Kemmy Tay, head of marketing, global wholesale banking, OCBC.

Above: Winners of the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award and Most Promising Sustainability Startup Award (from left) Bryan Oh, CEO, NEU Battery Materials; Raghav Narayan, CEO, Aprisium; Didi Gan, CEO, N&E Innovations; Steven Fong, CEO, Flex Fuel Hydrogen Development; Kang Jen Wee, CEO, Redex.

Left, from far left: SPH Media Trust English/Malay/Tamil Media Group editor-in-chief Wong Wei Kong with OCBC head of global commercial banking Linus Goh, speaking with Anna Chang, head of serial entrepreneur segment, global commercial banking, OCBC, and Tan Swee Yen, CEO, Conex Healthcare. Above: Representatives from NEU Battery Materials having their picture taken with a roundtable published in *The Business Times*.

Above: Emerging Enterprise Award Winners (from left) Chin Kai Lun, COO, ProfilePrint; Tan Swee Yen, CEO, Conex Healthcare; Craig Goonting, COO, Troopers Innovation. Far left: Kang Jen Wee, CEO, Redex Group at an interview after the company clinched the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award. Left: SimplifyNext director Isac James with managing director Mayank Gupta and senior manager Ritesh Agrawal. Below, clockwise from bottom left: Gracia Suciono, COO, Fox Logger; Alamsyah Cheung, CEO, Fox Logger; Amanda Gan, executive director for marketing and SME, OCBC Malaysia; Jaden Tok, director, account management, Mastercard; Craig Goonting, COO, Troopers Innovation; Joshua Tan, CEO, Troopers Innovation; Kevin Choo, head of commercial banking, OCBC Malaysia; Ng Han Yang, business development manager, Didian Realtor; and Chow Nam Kit, CEO, Didian Realtor.

Left, from far left: Emerging Enterprise Award finalist Fox Logger COO Gracia Suciono and CEO Alamsyah Cheung. Above: Iris Ng, head of middle market for global commercial banking, OCBC.

Right, from left: Managing director Lim Chi Haur and executive director Tan Ai Peng, BSL Eco Energy, which was a finalist for the Emerging Enterprise Sustainability Award. Far right: Tan Kian Wee, relationship manager, global commercial banking, OCBC with Chan Cheow Pong, executive editor, *The Business Times*.

Anna Chang, head of serial entrepreneur segment, global commercial banking, OCBC.

Left: Michelle Martin, emcee at the Emerging Enterprise Award Ceremony and Gala 2023. Above: The team from WhiteCoat Global.

Emerging Enterprise 2023

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