

For Immediate Release

ACTING ON A CONVICTION, MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Rotary Club of Bugis Junction celebrates
the 20th Anniversary of the Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award

Today, the Rotary Club of Bugis Junction (RCBJ) celebrated the **20th Anniversary of the Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award**. Since 1998, RCBJ has partnered the Institute of Technical Education to confer the Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award to ITE students who demonstrate all-round excellence in these areas: academic achievement, leadership qualities, good personal conduct and work attitude, and community service. In the last 20 years, **217 ITE students** have benefited from the Award.

A special award ceremony was held to mark the significant milestone of the award. The event was attended by ITE Principals and senior staff, parents and guests of award recipients, Award Alumni, RCBJ members, sister club Rotarians from Taiwan and Kuala Lumpur, friends and supporters of RCBJ.

An iconic part of this award is the tea session. RCBJ Rotarians spend time to meet the year's 12 award recipients before the award ceremony. Rotarians share about their professions and offer mentorship and a resource network for these young ITE students to tap on in the future.

With the Award, RCBJ hopes to achieve these objectives:

1. To recognize and encourage all-round excellence amongst ITE students;
2. To promote a mindset of "Do It Once Do It Right" in school and in their chosen vocations; and
3. To encourage the practice of high ethical standards in their chosen professions

More information about RCBJ and the origins of the Award are in [Annexes A and B](#) respectively. Brief information and quotes from some past winners can be found in [Annex C](#).

For further information, please contact:

Anand Swaminathan
President, Rotary Club of Bugis Junction
Tel: 98369496
Email: anandcorp@gmail.com

Vanisa Lee
Tel: 98777939
Email: lee.vanisa@gmail.com

Date of Release: 11 Nov 2017

**ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF BUGIS JUNCTION
AND THE ORIGINS OF THE ROTARY-ITE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The Rotary Club of Bugis Junction comprises professionals and business people from different walks of lives who come together to make a difference. It is a not-for-profit organization under the umbrella of Rotary International. Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" - serving the community, locally and internationally.

Rotary Club of Bugis Junction

Rotary Club of Bugis Junction (RCBJ) was chartered in 1996. It comprises 23 members. It is a not-for-profit organization under the umbrella of Rotary International. Rotary's motto is "**Service Above Self**" - serving the community, locally and internationally. Over the years, it has carried out meaningful and impactful projects to uplift the lives of the needy.

The RCBJ Rotarians constitute a diversified spectrum of vocations in fields such as hospitality, education, finance, IT, food and beverage and engineering. Rotarians pool their fields of expertise together to take on projects to do good for the community.

Nurturing young people for service leadership is a key focus of the club. RCBJ gives on-going active support to nurture Interactors from Yusof Ishak Secondary School (YISS) and Rotaractors from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). In 2016, RCBJ sponsored a Satellite Club with 13 members all under 30 years old as it evolves itself to stay relevant in a fast-changing world.

In the last 20 years, some of the notable **impactful local projects** carried out were: Rotary Millennium Charity Walk (1999), Children-In-Need (2000), Meals from the Heart (2004), Yellow Ribbon Project – Dining Behind Bars (2008), Project Wish 100 in Partnership with Tan Chin Tuan Foundation (2008), Silver Walk 100 (2012), Festive Cheers with Elderly (since 2014), Home-Makeovers (since 2015), Scholarships and Bursaries (since 2015).

RCBJ has also made a difference to the lives of needy beyond our shores. Projects were also carried out in Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Taiwan, and soon, India.

The club's longest running project, **Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award** was initiated in 1997.

THE ORIGINS OF THE ROTARY-ITE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rotary Club of Bugis Junction Charter President* (CP) Allan Yap had a career in the building and construction industry. He was concerned about the low quality of work carried out by workers, especially in the early years of the country's growth. He was convinced that the quality of buildings and structures lie as much in the workers who lay the bricks and tiles, put in the sewage pipes, fit the electrical wirings, weld steel structures, etc., as in the engineers and architects designing those buildings.

He felt that these workers must be imbued with a ***Do It Once Do It Right*** mantra, since many tasks once performed poorly may not be detected in time and to be remedied. The consequence of a faulty job could be dire. Much as he wanted to send this message to all workers, he recognised that such an excellence oriented mindset must be developed from young, at their training schools.

In 1998, CP Allan Yap approached the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) He met Mr. James Ng, then Training Manager of ITE Ang Mo Kio campus. CP Allan Yap put forth his proposal to encourage and recognize students who strive for excellence by creating the Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award. The idea was warmly received. RCBJ went on a fund-raising drive and the award started with an initial fund of \$13,800.

The Award started at the then Ang Mo Kio campus for 6 deserving students. One year later, the Award was extended to students in all the 10 ITE campuses. In 2005, the 10 ITE campuses were merged to form 3 colleges. RCBJ continues to recognize up to 12 outstanding students each year, 4 from each college and different disciplines.

The Record

The Award started at the then ITE Ang Mo Kio campus for 6 deserving students. One year later, the Award was extended to students in all the 10 ITE campuses. In 2005, ITE implemented the One ITE System, Three Colleges Governance and Education Model. RCBJ continues to recognize up to 12 outstanding students each year, 4 from each college and different disciplines.

Over the past 20 years, a total of **217 deserving students have been awarded.**

What's Special

An iconic part of this award is the tea session. RCBJ Rotarians spend time to meet the year's 12 award recipients before the award ceremony. Rotarians share about their professions and offer mentorship and a resource network for these young ITE students to tap on in the future.

A new logo is launched today to mark the 20th anniversary.

With conviction and action, CP Allan Yap and the members of RCBJ have made a significant difference to the 217 award recipients.

*Charter President refers to the person who started the Rotary Club.

Information and Quotes from Past Winners

Li Minyong Davis

Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award 2002

“ITE was my strong foundation for who I am today. I am very happy in the direction I am in presently. Having received multiple scholarships for polytechnic and university studies in computing, I did not grow complacent in finding my own value/niche in the working world. I fumbled in the first 3 years of my starting career but did not give up until I had found my current company (TechData) which I am building myself into an IT security solution architect.”

Khoo Wee Kuang

Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award 2006

“It has been almost 12 years since I graduated from ITE but the journey never ends there. After ITE, I did my Diploma in Business Studies at Ngee Ann Polytechnic before completing my degree with University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Singapore Institute of Technology majoring in Hospitality Management. My life took a leap and ITE has always been a part of it as I serve as a corporate and community partner.

At the moment, I am helping out on freelance basis at my dad's wholesale business - Tai Tong Toys Trading Enterprise while waiting for the next opportunity. In fact, I left my position as a Lecturer in Service Management with ITE College West recently.”

Wang Junyong

Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award 2008

After graduation from ITE, Junyong went on to pursue a diploma from Singapore Polytechnic. Since completing of National Service, Junyong turned his passion Taiko drumming into a viable social enterprise - Mangrove Learning Pte Ltd. The social enterprise focuses on using Taiko drumming as a tool to engage and encourage vulnerable community towards self-actualization. The social enterprise has developed programmes to serve the different community such as youth-at-risk, special needs and seniors with dementia. Junyong aspired to bring the Mangrove Learning's way of training methodology to the world.

Brandon Chia Zheng Da

Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award 2011

Since graduation from ITE in 2012, Brandon went on to pursue a Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing) in Ngee Ann Polytechnic. During his studies, he continues to seek opportunities to serve the community by volunteering in medical missions to Nepal during the 2015 earthquake, and in Myanmar during monsoon flood. He is currently holding a scholarship from the Ministry of Health to read SIT-University of Glasgow joint BSc (Hons) Nursing degree. Brandon aspires to be an Advanced Practice Nurse.

Zulayqha Binte Zulkifli

Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award 2012

Zulayqha Binte Zulkifli is a Guidance Officer at Children's Aid Society (Melrose). She graduated from ITE College East in 2013 and studied Social Sciences (Social Work) in Nanyang Polytechnic. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor in Social work in Singapore University of Social Sciences. Zulayqha aspire to be a Social Worker as she was inspired by her own family background.



The Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award recipients with Guest of Honour, Ms Low Khah Gek (centre), Rotary Club of Bugis Junction President Anand Swaminathan (centre left) and Charter President Allan Yap (centre right).