



PRESS RELEASE

Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

9 July 2012

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NATIONAL HONOURS FOR INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG EDUCATORS

1. Three young teachers have received the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) from Ms Sim Ann, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Law, at the National Institute of Education (NIE) Teachers' Investiture Ceremony on 11 July 2012. They are:

- Mr Elmi Zulkarnain Bin Osman, 34, from Pasir Ris Primary School;
- Ms Pham Hong Lien Phyllis Gabrielle, 31, from Clementi Town Secondary School.
- Mr Lee Wee Siong, Donny, 33, from Northbrooks Secondary School.

2. Selected from 14 finalists and shortlisted from 505 nominated teachers, the three recipients are firmly anchored in the belief that all children can learn and that education is about nurturing the whole child. They have sought to nurture all-rounded individuals through their lessons and interaction with students. The teachers have also distinguished themselves through their desire to inspire and develop their students, adopting innovative approaches both in and outside the classroom, as well as demonstrated dedication in stretching their students' potential. Please refer to [Annex A](#) for more information on the award recipients.

3. The OYEA is a national award that recognises excellent young teachers for their enthusiasm, energy and active involvement in the development of youth. Since its inception in 1999, 39 outstanding young educators, including this year's recipients, have been recognised. From this year onwards, the age criterion for OYEA has been revised to 35 years old and younger so as to align to the national definition of youth¹.

4. The OYEA recipients were nominated by the schools and the members of public and shortlisted by the Ministry of Education (MOE) for interviews by the OYEA Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the MOE, the NIE, the Community and Parents in Support of Schools (COMPASS) and the National Youth Council.

5. Besides honouring the achievements of young educators, the OYEA aims to inspire youth to take up teaching as a career. All OYEA awardees receive a trophy and citation certificate. They will also be fully sponsored to attend an overseas

¹ The National Youth Council's working definition of youth encompasses those between the ages of 15 and 35 years old in Singapore.

professional development trip. The list of the 2012 finalists and details of the OYEA is at [Annex B](#).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD (OYEA) 2012 WINNERS

Mr Elmi Zulkarnain Bin Osman from Pasir Ris Primary School

Elmi Zulkarnain Bin Osman is a strong advocate of National Education and Character Education, and a firm believer that every student has a role to play for the nation. As Head of Department in charge of Character & Citizenship Education (CCE), Elmi spearheads the design and implementation of the school's CCE programmes. Elmi has encouraged his colleagues to adopt a whole-school approach by constantly suggesting new ideas and possibilities, as well as providing them with resources and support.

As the Malay Language (ML) Coordinator, Elmi seeks to promote a culture of learning and collaboration amongst his students and colleagues. In the teaching of Creative Writing, he plans activities which feature self-directed and collaborative learning. To promote an appreciation of poetry in his students, he engages them through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Elmi believes in collaborating with his peers and has worked with the Malay Language Centre Singapore to pilot novel teaching and learning strategies as well as conducted professional sharing sessions with the (ML) teachers in the East Zone.

Examples of Elmi's ICT-based programmes for ML include:

1. PoetICT (advocating poetry through ICT) and Creative Writing using Digital Comics which he has been spearheading since 2007
2. "Integrating Collaborative Learning, Self Directed Learning and National Education into the teaching of Creative Writing". This won a Gold Award in SHPS Innosparks 2011, and was presented during the National ML ICT Festival 2011 at the Teachers' Academy on the 29 July 2011. The video production of this project was also selected as the top ten finalists for this year's *Lensa Bahasa* Competition organised by the Malay Language Council.

Elmi has a deep passion for the development of youths beyond school. This is seen in his commitment as a grassroots leader and an active participant in youth engagement programmes like the Youth empower which promotes greater social innovation and community engagement.

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Ms Pham Hong Lien Phyllis Gabrielle from Clementi Town Secondary School

Pham Hong Lien Phyllis Gabrielle believes that every child can achieve and excel. She continually strives to create opportunities for her students to experience success. Having graduated from the Normal (Academic) stream herself, Phyllis has great empathy for students who struggle academically. She shares with her students her own educational journey and the challenges she had overcome. She inspires her students to think 'big', think 'positive' and to always persevere. Her belief in them greatly motivates them to strive towards their goals.

Phyllis is deeply committed to enabling her students to learn in meaningful ways. She organises field trips for her Geography students to observe and understand concepts first hand, and she engages them by discussing and making connections with historical, environmental, economic and global issues. By creating opportunities for her students to conduct experiments and collect data in local coastal environments like East Coast Park and Sungei Buloh Nature Reserve, Phyllis aims to nurture her students to become thoughtful, caring and contributing citizens.

As Head of Department of Humanities and Curriculum Leadership, she has also contributed to the development of the school's Humanities Integrated Project and the use of Photojournalism projects to enhance the learning of the students. Phyllis appreciates the importance of continual professional learning and motivates her colleagues to innovate in their teaching pedagogies and strategies. She works closely with her school leaders to provide learning opportunities for all teachers to achieve the school's vision of "Every Teacher, a Curriculum Instructional Leader".

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Mr Lee Wee Siong, Donny from Northbrooks Secondary School

Lee Wee Siong, Donny, is a strong advocate of character education and he inspires his students to excel and give of their best in every task that they take on. As the Head of Department for the Normal Technical [N(T)] stream and Discipline at his school, Donny has conceptualised and implemented the 'Naturally Talented' programme to help his students discover their strengths and be proud of themselves as individuals.

Donny has been instrumental in designing and implementing systems and processes to improve the discipline and culture in the school. He spends time counselling disengaged students and conducts home visits to understand them better. Donny has led the school in forging strong partnerships with stakeholders in education including parents, shops and residents in the neighbourhood, as well as various volunteer organisations.

Donny worked with the teachers to implement the Merit and Demerit Point system that motivates students to exercise self-discipline and to perform good deeds. He plans a camp for the N(T) students at the start of every term to build their leadership skills and motivate them to study. As the Head-in-charge of the Student Management Committee, he also collaborates with agencies to look into the needs of students with behavioural or social problems. For example, he engaged Yishun North Neighbourhood Police Centre on Green Leaf Project for at-risk students. In addition, he worked in partnership with a Teaching and Learning Support Officer to implement the Special Pull-Out and Re-integration Programme to cater to students with special needs and are at-risk.

Donny is an avid learner and has taken the initiative to read, attend courses and hold discussions with other educators to keep abreast of changes in the curriculum, expand his repertoire of teaching strategies and enhance his knowledge of the psychological and emotional needs and development of adolescents. A firm believer in teacher collaboration, Donny has de-privatised his classroom by facilitating peer observation and collective learning. He facilitates the lesson study project for his Professional Learning Team. His enthusiasm for collaborative learning and sharing is a source of inspiration to his peers.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD

Introduced in 1999, the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) is administered by the Academy of Singapore Teachers of the Ministry of Education. Besides honouring the achievements of deserving young educators, the OYEA serves to inspire youths to take up a teaching career and be excellent role models for the younger generation.

Objectives of the Award

- To give recognition to the role young teachers play in moulding the future of our nation;
- To recognise outstanding young teachers for their youthful idealism, enthusiasm, energy and active involvement in the development of their students and the teaching fraternity.

Nomination Criteria

Nominees were teachers who:

- a) Are born on or after 30 June 1977;
- b) Are presently in service in a Primary or Secondary school, a Junior College or a Centralised Institute;
- c) Have shown utmost concern for the character and moral development of students;
- d) Motivate, challenge, inspire and help students to bring out their full potential;
- e) Are reflective practitioners who model continual learning;
- f) Demonstrate deep passion for teaching, and are role models for the teaching profession.

Nomination Period

Members of the public were invited to nominate teachers for OYEA between the end of last year to the beginning of this year.

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OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD 2012

List of Finalists

No	Name of Finalist	School
Primary School		
1	Mdm Lim Yi Jun	CHIJ (Kellock)
2	Miss Goh Lay Ching Angela	Marsiling Primary School
3	Mdm Emiline Neo Shuen Huey	Northland Primary School
4	Mr Elmi Zulkarnain Bin Osman	Pasir Ris Primary School
Secondary School		
5	Ms Cheryl Ang	Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary
6	Mr Yong Eng Kiat	Anderson Secondary School
7	Mr Yang Wen Jun Stanley	Boon Lay Secondary School
8	Ms Pham Hong Lien Phyllis Gabrielle	Clementi Town Secondary School
9	Mr Lee Wee Siong, Donny	Northbrooks Secondary School
10	Ms Azmed Beevi Bte Abdul Kalam	Serangoon Garden Secondary School
11	Ms Chee Sui Yim Alina	St Hilda's Secondary School
12	Mdm Maslina Mohamed Jalani	Yusof Ishak Secondary School
13	Mr Poh Wei Beng	Zhonghua Secondary School
Post-Secondary School		
14	Mr Augustine Ng Liang Meng	Pioneer Junior College

* 2012 awardees are indicated in bold print.

These finalists were selected from 505 nominated teachers – 135 from primary schools, 323 from secondary schools, 15 from the junior colleges and 32 from integrated programme schools.