

PRESS RELEASE

20 January 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



SENIOR VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE EMERITUS AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

1. In recognition of all his voluntary contributions, a former Exxon Director is receiving the first ever Emeritus Award for a senior volunteer.
2. Mr Ngiam Tong Yuen, 77, is the first senior volunteer from RSVP Singapore – The Organisation of Senior Volunteers to receive this award in recognition of his 15 years of contribution.
3. The award will be presented to him during RSVP Singapore’s Volunteer Appreciation Day on 20 January 2017 at The Grassroots’ Club by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health.
4. Mr Ngiam, a former Colombo Plan scholar in Engineering, started volunteering with the Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) in 2002, and has served on its Board of Management for the last 12 years. However, he has had to step down in 2016 due to the VWO’s constitution which limits a Board member’s term of service to only 6 terms.
5. Hence to honour him for his tremendous contributions, the VWO created the first ever Emeritus Award in his honour. The award is given a higher prestige than the VWO’s current President’s Award.
6. “Mr Ngiam may no longer be able to serve on our Board, but we still wanted to accord him the same amount of respect and status,” clarified Ms Neo Hong Hong, Senior Manager, Corporate Partnership & Fund Development and Corporate Communications. “His humility and passion to serve is inspiring and it was only right that we honour that.”
7. Besides serving on the Board, Mr Ngiam has also stepped up in the roles as Chairman for RSVP Singapore’s National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) 2015 and their Flag Day for the past 3 years. Both were large-scale events that required a huge amount of time and coordination, but Mr Ngiam took on the challenge and executed the events without hesitation. The Guest-of-Honour for NSVM 2015 was President Tony Tan Keng Yam.
8. “I think one thing about Mr Ngiam is that he never hesitates to raise his hand and volunteer his time and skills. Furthermore, in the time that I have worked with him on the Board, I feel that Mr Ngiam is a role model to others. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need,” said President of RSVP Singapore, Mr Koh Juay Meng.
9. The former director of Exxon Chemical Singapore may be retired, but he keeps busy by being active in various government bodies such as SPRING Singapore, Public Utilities Board and the

Professional Engineers Board. He is also a Principal Mediator for the Singapore Mediation Centre and mediates at the Small Claims Tribunal and the Maintenance of Parents Tribunal.

10. "I want to kill the stereotype that older people are helpless and sick," Mr Ngiam once said in an interview with the local paper in 2015.

11. Dr Philbert Chin, founding President of RSVP Singapore who worked with Mr Ngiam from 2002 to 2012, had only sterling things to say, "I had the honour of knowing and working with Mr Ngiam. He is a gentleman; quiet, patient, kind, humble, honest and devoted to helping others."

12. Also honoured during the event will be Mr Chan Pit Seng, a long-time volunteer of RSVP Singapore since 2006. He will be receiving the Volunteer of the Year for his contributions to the organisation.

13. A retired civil servant, the 75 year old is a familiar figure to volunteers and staff, and is affectionately addressed as *lao shi* ("teacher" in Mandarin).

14. "What sets Pit Seng apart from the rest is his willingness to help us in our many events and members' ad-hoc requests. His positive outlook and drive to impart his knowledge to others without expecting anything in return is outstanding," said Ms Jesslyn Wu, Manager, Programmes and Volunteer Management.

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MEDIA FACTSHEET ON RSVP SINGAPORE

ABOUT RSVP SINGAPORE

RSVP Singapore - The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is a non-profit organisation and an Institution of Public Character as defined under the Charity Act. The Organisation was started in 1998 and launched by then-Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong. RSVP Singapore is a registered society under the Societies Act and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).

Since its inception, RSVP has grown into one of the leading volunteer organisations in Singapore, in particular paving the trend of senior volunteerism. RSVP senior volunteers can be found all over Singapore- in hospitals, primary schools and at Changi Airport- serving the varied needs of their beneficiaries. With over 1,000 members, RSVP Singapore serves more than 150,000 beneficiaries each year, including the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low income families, as well as needy seniors through its community service programmes.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY 2017 PROGRAMME

Date: Friday, 20 January 2017

Time: 11.30am – 3.00pm

Venue: Multi-Purpose Hall, The Grassroots' Club

Guest-of-Honour: Mr Chee Hong Tat, Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Health

11.30am	Arrival of guests
11.45am	Arrival of Guest-of-Honour
11.50am	Speech by RSVP President Koh Juay Meng
12.00pm	Lunch commences
12.15pm	Performance
12.30pm	Award presentation
1.15pm	Entertainment and games
2.00pm	Lucky draw
2.30pm	End of programme

There will be performances by Fuchun Secondary School, RSVP Singapore's Line Dancing Group and a member of the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped.