



Ms Izzah Abdul with 3 top nominees: Mr Kho Joo Koh, Mr Herinder Singh, Mr Rajagovindan Pasuram, and Mr Sri Abood Hain Ali

Ms Dorothy Teoh with 3 top nominees: Mr Gopal Chm, Per... performance, Drak, James Ooi, Mr Lim Kwong Chong, and Mr Philip Foo

Mr See Hwey Bong and Mr Maszrul Jamshid with 3 top nominees: Puan Sri Sita, Yoon Chuan Yong, Dr David Phean Heptina, and Mr Hisham Muhammad and Dr Ak Nathan

Dr Tan Theresa Fong with 3 nominees: Ms Melissa Yoh, Ms Roslan, and Ms Anne Wong

# Hallmark of Success

**ERNST & YOUNG'S MOMENTOUS NIGHT PAID TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURS AND SAW 14 TOP NOMINEES, ALL EQUALLY DESERVING TO WIN. ONLY ONE TOOK HOME MALAYSIA'S ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR® AWARD 2008. WHO WAS IT? ANGELINE FOO REPORTS**



here were rolled out red carpets and the flickering of camera lights as crowds gathered and mingled at the foyer of the Mayang Sari Ballroom at JW Marriott Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The impressive event, which was sponsored by Astro and Credit Suisse, about to be staged inside the opulently-decorated ballroom was Malaysia's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year/Award 2008 ceremony.

YB Tan Sri Nor Mohamad Bin Yakop, Honourable Minister of Finance II, was in attendance to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship in Malaysia.

Both the Minister and Mr See Hwey Bong, Country Managing Partner of Ernst & Young were invited on stage to address the audience with their respective speeches.

The immaculately dressed women's trio called The Electricians then demonstrated their musical prowess on the violin and provided great entertainment with their commendable performance.

Themed 'Passion, Perseverance, Performance', the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2008 acknowledges the core values of entrepreneurs - enduring passion, perseverance, and a mindset of high performance to turn mere possibilities into excellent enterprises. It also recognises that Malaysia's business talents have emerged as regional players that are poised to become global champions.

The top nominees for the night were selected by an independent panel of judges, all distinguished members in the world of business. The 14 top nominees went into the running to become award recipients for four categories including Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year, Technology Entrepreneur of the Year, Woman Entrepreneur of the Year and Master Entrepreneur of the Year. Each nominee was given a token of appreciation.

The Emerging Entrepreneur Award went to Mr Bob Chia, the owner of Pulse BPO Sdn Bhd, an online market research and

intelligence practice. Globally-recognised, Pulse BPO recorded a 133% revenue growth over three years and has clientele in the United States, Asia and Europe.

Mr Harvinder Singh, co-founder of InControl Tech Sdn Bhd, was named the Technology Entrepreneur of the Year award recipient. He has steered the company to the forefront of the field of homegrown consultants in automation technology, laying claim to being South East Asia's largest, particularly in the power industry. The company's expertise lies in areas such as waste water treatment, tunnel management and building automation. Prestigious projects are secured in India, Bahrain, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Puan Norani Solari of Sipro Plastic Industries Sdn Bhd was proudly announced as the recipient of the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award. Unfortunately, Puan Norani was unable to attend the award ceremony that night. Receiving the award on her behalf was Mr. Nabihah Taha.

Puan Norani Solari set up Sipro Plastic Industries Sdn Bhd in 1992 with the aid of PUCUN who was looking for a young entrepreneur to venture into the plastic industry. She took Sipro Plastic from a plastic injection moulding shop with three staffers to being an established organisation providing comprehensive packages in engineering plastics with a wide customer base in various industries with three factories and over 140 staff. Sipro Plastic has achieved an international quality accreditation that is recognised by world-class automotive manufacturers.

Although there were no drum rolls during the announcement of the winners, suspense was in the air as Tan Sri Nor Mohamad was invited on stage to present the awards to the beaming winners.

Finally, the protocol moment to announce the night's main award arrived. With celebratory music in the background,



Dr Tan Theresa Fong with 3 nominees: Ms Melissa Yoh, Ms Roslan, and Ms Anne Wong



Dato' Edmund Santhara, Mr Edwin Chew, Mr Mohd Nasri and Mr Amarjeet Singh

the jury named Dato' A K Nathan of Eversendai Corporation Sdn Bhd as Malaysia's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® 2008. In addition to this, Dato' Nathan also bagged the Master Entrepreneur of the Year® award.

Dato' Nathan founded Eversendai Corporation Sdn Bhd (Eversendai) in 1984. Today, it is a reputable player in the fabrication, design and erection of steel structures, making construction possible for iconic landmarks such as the Petronas Twin Towers, the Burj al-Arab hotel in Dubai and the Burj Dubai – currently the world's tallest building. The company's outstanding track record includes 100 projects in Malaysia, Singapore, the Middle East, Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. Eversendai is also one of the largest steel contractors in the Middle East, with fabrication plants in Dubai, Sharjah and Qatar. In 2005, the company was awarded the "International Achievement



Y Bhg Datuk James On Li-Ming



Tuan Syed Abdullah Alhadad

Award" by the Construction Industry Board, Malaysia.

Dato' Nathan will represent Malaysia at the world award event in Monte Carlo, Monaco in June 2009. This event will see the participation of over 50 of the world's best entrepreneurs in competition for the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year award - the global benchmark of entrepreneurial excellence.

This is the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs. True to the title it bears, this truly global honour bestows recognition to high-flying entrepreneurs who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognising them through regional, national and global awards programmes in more than 135 cities in 50 countries. □



Dato' AK Nathan and Datin Puspawathy Subramaniam

## WINNERS' REACTIONS:

**Y BHG DATO' A K NATHAN OF EVERSENDAI CORPORATION SDN BHD**  
**Recipient - Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year® 2008 & Master Entrepreneur of the Year® award**

"I was really surprised because there were many other heavyweights in the running for the award. I have some butterflies in my stomach. I least expected to be a winner. I want to express my sincere thanks to Ernst & Young for giving me this award. I feel proud and happy to receive it. Awards mean that you are being valued and recognised. Being in the business for the last 25 years, I still practice the same fundamentals without compromise. I have very dedicated people who have been with me for a long time. I maintain good relationships with them."

**MR BOB CHUA OF PULSE BPO SDN BHD**  
**Recipient - The Emerging Category Award**

"It has been a very exciting journey for me thus far. I was really surprised and honoured to be a part of the entrepreneurs' community today; to be contributing to the country's economy. I must credit team effort for my company's success today. Our company was listed three months ago in the United Kingdom. Asia is the fastest growing market research region in the world."

**MR HARVINDER SINGH, CO-FOUNDER OF INCONTROL TECH SDN BHD**  
**Recipient - The Technology Category Award**

"Being an entrepreneur is very challenging indeed. I went through a lot of obstacles. The strength of the entrepreneur is equivalent to not only wanting to but also the ability to pick yourself up even when you are down."

**PUAN NORAINI SOLTAN OF SIPRO PLASTIC INDUSTRIES SDN BHD**  
**Recipient - Women's Category Award**  
**Ms Nabilah Talib speaking on her behalf:**

"Puan Noraini is a very hardworking individual. You have to think big in order to achieve your dreams. You have to take care of the details. She believes in family support. This award will motivate her to become a better entrepreneur and to contribute to the Malaysian economy."