Highest civilian honour for Tony Tan

Former president Tony Tan Keng Yam has been conferred the highest civilian honour, the Order of Temasek (First Class), capping a public service journey that spanned nearly four decades.

He is the ninth Singaporean to receive the honour in history, a select group that includes former presidents and Cabinet ministers.

Dr Tan said he is "deeply humbled and greatly honoured" by the award.

"Together with many of my generation, I was privileged to serve my country, to see it grow and thrive. It has been truly rewarding to work for, and alongside, so many Singaporeans who envisioned a better future for their children and grandchildren," he added.

Dr Tan tops this year’s National Day Awards list, which includes 4,041 civilian and 583 military recipients.

Coming after Dr Tan on the list are two recipients of the Distinguished Service Order. They are Singapore University of Technology and Design’s former chairman Philip Ng Chee Tat and National University of Singapore Board of Trustees’ former chairman Wong Ngit Liong.

SEE HOME B1
Tony Tan tops National Day awards list

Former president Tony Tan Keng Yam, 78, has been conferred the nation’s highest civilian honour, the Order of Temasek (First Class). He tops this year’s National Day awards list of 4,041 civilian and 583 military recipients.

Dr Tan, whose public service career spanned nearly four decades, said he was “deeply humbled and greatly honoured” by the award.

In a statement, he said: “Together with many of my generation, I was privileged to serve my country, to see it grow and thrive. It has been truly rewarding to work for, and alongside, so many Singaporeans who envisioned a better future for their children and grandchildren.”

Dr Tan is the ninth Singaporean in history to receive the Order of Temasek (First Class). The last to be given the honour was former minister S R Nathan, in 2015. Other recipients were: former presidents S R Nathan and Wee Kim Wee, former ministers Goh Keng Swee, S. Rajaratnam, Hon Sui Sen and Lim Kim San, and former chief justice Yong Pung How.

Dr Tan earned a first-class honours degree in physics from the University of Singapore. He also has a master’s degree in operations research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in applied mathematics from the University of Adelaide.

In 1979, he left his job as general manager of OCBC Bank to enter politics, winning a by-election for the Sembawang seat. He was MP for Sembawang for the next 27 years.

In his ministerial career, he helmed five ministries, starting with education. He was credited for expanding vocational and technical training opportunities and setting up Singapore’s third university, the Singapore Management University. Dr Tan also helmed the finance, health, trade and industry and defence ministries. In 1995, he became deputy prime minister, a role he stayed in for a decade. He left politics in 2006. He was founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew’s first choice to be Singapore’s second prime minister, but he declined the post. Mr Lee once praised him for his quick mind and decisiveness. “He would say ‘yes or no’ and he would stick to it,” said Mr Lee. Dr Tan, who is married and has four children, was elected Singapore’s seventh president, and served one term from 2011 to 2017.

Mr Dhanabalan paid tribute to his former Cabinet colleague, noting his significant contribution in running for the presidency. The other candidates in the 2011 election made promises beyond the constitutional role of the president, said Mr Dhanabalan, noting: “Dr Tony Tan entered the fray and brought sanity to the whole process.”

Coming after Dr Tan in the awards list are two recipients of the Distinguished Service Order: Singapore University of Technology and Design’s former chairman Philip Ng Chee Tat, and National University of Singapore Board of Trustees’ former chairman Wong Ngit Liong.

Mr Ng, 59, is chief executive of property giant Far East Organization while Mr Wong, 77, founded and heads Venture Corporation.

Besides recognising individuals who have served the nation, this year’s National Day awards also paid tribute to two groups which worked on the Pedra Branca case and the Trump-Kim Summit. Formed from various ministries and agencies, the groups received the President’s Certificate of Commendation.

As Singaporeans prepare to celebrate National Day today, Dr Tan called on one and all to continue the task of nation-building, saying: “Our nation remains a work in progress, and Singapore needs the service of men and women from all walks of life to build on our strong foundations to ensure an even brighter future for our nation.”

Elgin Toh
Deputy Political Editor

He helped chart NUS’ direction

MR WONG NGIT LIONG
Former chairman, National University of Singapore Board of Trustees The Distinguished Service Order

Over the years, Mr Wong Ngit Liong has been actively involved in shaping Singapore’s education and economic landscapes.

The 77-year-old, who is the chairman and chief executive of electronics manufacturer Venture Corp, was chairman of the Board of Trustees at National University of Singapore (NUS) from 2004 to 2016. For his contributions to the nation and to the education sector, Mr Wong will be awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

But he finds the act of service in itself rewarding enough, he said.

“The privilege and joy of serving and contributing to the progress and advancement of the education and economic domains in Singapore are already more than adequate reward,” he said.

“To be awarded with the prestigious Distinguished Service Order for doing what one enjoys is pure ecstasy.”

When the local universities – NUS, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University – were corporatised in 2006, Mr Wong led the NUS team in shaping the university’s vision and charting its directions.

“These were instrumental in positioning NUS for its next stage of growth... NUS has transformed itself into a leading global university, achieving excellence in both teaching and research,” said the award citation.

Mr Wong was also part of the Economic Review Committee in 2001, which was tasked with reviewing policies and proposing strategies to promote the growth and development of Singapore. He served on the Constitutional Commission set up in 2016 that was tasked to review the Elected Presidency.

Jolene Ang

A JOY TO SERVE

The privilege and joy of serving and contributing to the progress and advancement of the education and economic domains in Singapore are already more than adequate reward... To be awarded with the prestigious Distinguished Service Order for doing what one enjoys is pure ecstasy.
National Day Awards 2018

From policeman to head of civil service

Franklin Tan
Minister for Home Affairs and Law

Once a cop, always a cop. No wonder Mr Tan, pictured with wife Eileen, is articulate in helpig law enforcement work. 

Mr Tan, who has served in the police for more than 30 years, was promoted to the position of commissioner 19 years ago. Last year, he was appointed minister for Home Affairs and Law. 

He said that his career in the police force has given him a perspective of how the law enforcement works. He also said that his experience in the police force has helped him to understand the needs of the people. 

Taking over the role of minister for Home Affairs and Law, Mr Tan said that he is committed to safeguarding Singapore’s security and stability. 

Role in shaping policies over long career

Machachara Mtshana

Mr Mtshana, who has served in the civil service for more than 30 years, has been involved in various policy-making roles. 

He has served as Permanent Secretary for Trade and Industry, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, and Minister for Trade and Industry. 

Mr Mtshana has been instrumental in shaping policies related to trade and industry, and his experience has been invaluable in the government’s efforts to attract foreign direct investment and promote economic growth. 

Helping Singapore’s swimmers make waves

Ms Loo Yew Chee

As head of the Singapore national swimming team, Ms Loo has been instrumental in helping Singaporeian swimmers excel in international competitions. 

Under her leadership, the team has won numerous medals and set records, improving Singapore’s standing in the world of swimming. 

Ms Loo has been a strong advocate for the development of swimming in Singapore, and has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for young swimmers to reach their full potential.
Ensuring Supreme Court runs smoothly

Mr. Choong, Attorney General of Singapore, said the Supreme Court will continue to work as usual after the National Day Racial Harmony Day. He said that the court would be operating as usual from Monday, with all judges and lawyers present.

Making the arts, culture more accessible

Mr. Ng, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, announced the launch of the National Arts Council’s new programme, titled “Arts for All.” The programme aims to make the arts more accessible to the public by providing free admission to all arts events.

Source: The Straits Times
Long time contributor to tertiary education scene

Professor Andrew C.Y. Lee

Engineering Management

This year's储存 Management Medal Award recipient

Dr. Andrew C.Y. Lee

co-founder and former executive chair of the Lee Family Foundation

A long-time contributor to the tertiary education scene, Professor Andrew C.Y. Lee has dedicated his life to the advancement of education.

Visionary leader at SUTD

Professor Thomas Heng

President, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

A visionary leader who has transformed the landscape of technology and design education.

Professor Thomas Heng

President, Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

A visionary leader who has transformed the landscape of technology and design education.
Dr. Nandini Kumar Rajamani, in his charge of developing new technologies for units under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The public service veteran, who has been under the banner of Home Affairs, was bestowed the use of automation and virtual reality in the Home Team's operations.

He's the go-to whiz for the Home Team.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Tuan Hiep, Cluster C, Singapore Police Force, Minister of Home Affairs (Home Affairs Division, Criminal Investigation Division), Director, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). Tuan Hiep, Cluster C, Singapore Police Force, Minister of Home Affairs (Home Affairs Division, Criminal Investigation Division), Director, Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA).

MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

Tuan Chong Hua, Director, Economic Development, Investment Promotion and Marketing, Ministry of Manpower (MP), Singapore. Tuan Chong Hua, Director, Economic Development, Investment Promotion and Marketing, Ministry of Manpower (MP), Singapore.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY


MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Annabelle Lim, Principal Sociologist, Ministry of Social and Family Development. Ms. Annabelle Lim, Principal Sociologist, Ministry of Social and Family Development.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources. Mr. Tan Hwee Ling, Senior Advisor, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources.