

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SINGAPORE'S ENTERPRISING INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS UNVEILED

SICCI announces finalists for SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards 2011

Two companies to vie for top honours in newly-launched "Family Business" category

19 August 2011

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) is pleased to announce the 15 finalists for the four categories of the SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards (SICCI-DBS SIEA) 2011. These include two finalists in the newly-launched "Family Business" Award.

The finalists were chosen from an initial 32 applicants. The first round of selection was carried out by RSM Chio Lim, the Knowledge Advisor for SICCI-DBS SIEA 2011. The process involved interviews and a comprehensive review and evaluation of all the applications.

Vying for the Leading Indian Entrepreneur 2011 in the 'Large Enterprise', 'Medium Enterprise', 'Promising Entrepreneur' and 'Family Business' categories, these candidates are as follows:

Category 1 – Large Enterprise (Three Entrepreneurs)

Mr Karan Narula, Director and Chief Operating Officer

Company: Mercantile Pacific Asia Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: General wholesale trade in electronic products, mobile phones and digital cameras

Mr Shashi Lal Kashyap, Managing Director

Company: The United Agencies Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Exporter, importer and dealer of carpets, furnishing and industrial goods

Mr Surajkumar Rajkumar Jaising, Managing Director

Company: Century Steel Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Trading, processing and distribution of stainless steel and carbon semi-finished products

Category 2 – Medium Enterprise (Five Entrepreneurs)

Mr Gobi Krishnan, Managing Director

Company: Lesont Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: General wholesale for wine trading

Mr Lakshmanan Gurunathan, Managing Director

Company: Laksel EPS Technologies Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Process and industrial plant engineering services

Mr Ramasamy Ramesh, Managing Director

Company: Techno Fibre (S) Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Fabrication and repair of fibre-reinforced composites

Mr Verjesh Aggarwala, President and Chief Executive Officer

Company: Supreme Components International Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Distributor of electronic components

Mr Vinod Menon, Chairman

Company: Mindwave Solutions Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Information technology and services management

Category 3 – Promising Entrepreneur (Five Entrepreneurs)

Mr David Anil Sharma, Director

Company: Video Houze Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Motion pictures, video and television production activities

Mr Shailaja Suresh Kumar, Sole Proprietor

Company: Om Vedic Heritage Centre

Nature of Business: One-stop centre for holistic wellness

Mr Sonya Madeira, Managing Partner

Company: Rice communications Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Marketing and communications consulting services

Mr V Ramu, Director

Company: Jeanz Live Pte Ltd Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Indian entertainment club

Mr Vicknesh R Pillay, Managing Director

Company: Shenton Group of Companies Pte Ltd

Nature of Business: Commission agents and marketing

Category 4 – Family Business (Two Applicants)

Mr Kasinathan Ezhilan, Group Chairman, Managing Director

Company: Selvi Group

Nature of Business: Provision shop operations

Mr Rajakumar Chandra, Partner

Company: Jothi Store and Flower Shop

Nature of Business: Wholesale, retail, import and export of household items

In announcing the 2011 finalists, SICCI's Vice-Chairman and Chairman for the SICCI-DBS SIEA 2011 Committee, Mr Kirpa Ram Sharma said, "Each year, we witness impressive entries from outstanding Indian entrepreneurs. This year is no different. In today's economy, where entrepreneurship plays an important role in fuelling growth, adding jobs and building communities, this group of entrepreneurs have proven themselves to be highly talented and successful. These Awards is an important platform for SICCI to fulfil its commitment towards unearthing and presenting enterprising entrepreneurs. We at SICCI look forward to the presentation ceremony where we will confer the Leading Indian Entrepreneur 2011 accolade to another group of exceptional Indian entrepreneurs, including for the newly-initiated 'Family-Business' category."

SICCI's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Hernaikh Singh, added, "The Awards provide a perfect opportunity to recognise the best of Indian business and their successes. These companies have displayed an impressive ability to thrive despite challenging economic conditions, pursuing growth and creating prosperity. We believe it is essential that we acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism and innovation that are the hallmarks of talents and success. These entrepreneurs deserve the due recognition and the Awards aim to do just that."

The finalists will attend the final stage of the assessment on 26 August 2011 where they will have face-to-face presentations and interviews with a panel of judges comprising eminent persons from the private and public sectors, who will decide on the overall winner in each of the categories of the Awards. This year, Mr Inderjit Singh, Deputy Chairman, Action Community for Entrepreneurship; and Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio GRC, will chair the judging panel.

The Entrepreneur of the Year for the respective four categories will be announced at the SICCI's 87th Anniversary Dinner and SICCI-DBS Awards presentation ceremony on 29 September 2011 at the Ritz Carlton, Singapore. Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Lim Hng Kiang, is the Guest-of-Honour for the event. The SICCI-DBS SIEA is Singapore's premier and most prestigious business awards programme for the Indian community. More than 800 entrepreneurs, professionals and executives are expected to attend the Awards presentation ceremony.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Rekha Manoharan (Ms)
Corporate Communications/Media Relations
Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
SICCI Building
31 Stanley Street
Singapore 068740
Tel : 6508 0146 (DID)
Email : rekha@sicci.com

About the SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards

Launched in 2004, the SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards are presented annually by the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry to recognise outstanding Indian entrepreneurs and to serve as a motivation for budding Indian entrepreneurs.

The key objectives of the Award are:

- Recognise and reward the best entrepreneurs in the Indian business community in Singapore;
 - Showcase leading Indian entrepreneurs and businesses in Singapore, thereby highlighting the contemporary entrepreneurial spirit within the Indian community;
 - Inspire other Singaporean Indians to undertake the entrepreneurship path; and
 - Enhance the visibility of Indian entrepreneurs and businesses in Singapore.
-

About the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Established first in 1924 as the Indian Merchants Association, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry is one of the three ethnic chambers with over 850 members with permanent representation on the council of the Singapore Business Federation. Today, it is a platform for enhancing interaction and information exchange for business promotion and development for its members. It is also a unified body representing the Indian business community serving as a spokesman for the private and public sector organisations in Singapore.

More details on SICCI can be found at <http://www.sicci.com>.
