

# MEDIA RELEASE

## AustCham business award winners 2019

The annual Australian Chamber of Commerce Singapore (AustCham) business awards were presented at a lunch at the Grand Hyatt today featuring fresh Australian produce cooked by a team of internationally acclaimed Australian chefs. The lunch was attended by over 250 leaders of the business community in Singapore.

Adam Lyle, AustCham President said the awards recognise Australian business excellence, innovation entrepreneurship and the strong connection between Australia and Singapore.

“Awards such as these serve as a timely reminder not only of the strength of Australian business in Singapore but the diversity and the contribution to Singapore society - not just the provision of goods and services,” he said.

“This year we celebrate a range of entrepreneurial and innovative businesses providing early childhood education through to healthcare and marine engineering services reflecting the broad scope of Australian expertise.

“Equally the Awards recognize the ever expanding and substantial commercial relationships between Singapore and Australia.”

Mr Lyle congratulated each of the award winners for 2019:

AustCham President’s Award, awarded to an individual or association who has made a significant contribution to the Australian and Singaporean business community, or to the relationship between Australia and Singapore, or who has substantially facilitated investment or trade between our two countries. **2019 winner: The Hon Andrew Robb AO**

Prior to politics Andrew had a career in agriculture with roles as an animal health officer and agricultural economist before joining the Cattle Council of Australia as Executive Director and then to the National Farmers Federation as its Executive Director. Andrew stood for Parliament in 2004 and was elected to the Federal Seat of Goldstein. A tireless worker both in Opposition and Government he served a number of portfolios. Following the Coalition victory at the 2013 election, Andrew was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister for Trade and Investment. During his term he negotiated a number of free trade agreements with Asia as well as the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and Singapore. This was the first strategic partnership Singapore signed with another country, taking the relationship between Singapore and Australia to a new level. Since leaving politics in 2016 Andrew has maintained links with Asia, advising a range of national and international companies across the healthcare, food and agribusiness, resources and energy sectors. A board member of the Kidman cattle enterprise, Andrew is also Chair of Asialink and Asialink Business.

In 2003, Andrew was awarded the office of the Order of Australia (AO) for his service to agriculture, politics and the community. Andrew is the author of “BlackDog Daze:Public Life, Private Demons” (Melbourne University Publishing).

Commonwealth Bank of Australia Business Alliance Award, Awarded to the Singaporean company which has demonstrated a significant commitment to Australian trade and investment. **2019 winner: Keppel Corporation**

With a global footprint in more than 20 countries, Keppel is a multi-business company providing solutions for sustainable urbanisation, to meet the growing need for energy, infrastructure, clean environments, high quality homes and offices, and connectivity. The Keppel Group has been invested in Australia since the 1980s, and has current investments of over S\$3 billion in Australia in key infrastructure projects and real estate. In addition, Keppel is supplying waste-to-energy (WTE) technology and services to Australia's first WTE plant in Kwinana, while Keppel Prince is Australia's largest producer of wind towers and wind farms. Most recently, the Group, through Keppel Infrastructure Trust, completed a A\$1 billion deal for the acquisition of the Ixom Group. The Ixom Group is amongst the leading industrial infrastructure businesses in Australia and New Zealand, supplying and distributing water treatment chemicals, as well as industrial and specialty chemicals. The Keppel Group is committed to continue investing and seeking strategic partnerships in Australia and contributing to the country's development.

GEMS World Academy Entrepreneur Award, recognising a person/company who has successfully established their own business in Singapore. **2019 winner: David Chiem – MindChamps**

As Founder CEO and Executive Chairman of MindChamps PreSchool Ltd, David Chiem's approach of always 'staying ahead of the curve' has taken the organisation from point zero in 2008 to the number one brand position in the highly-competitive Singapore premium preschool space. This was followed by a successful listing on the mainboard of the Singapore Exchange in 2017, leading to the creation of a globally-recognised preschool brand. Under David's leadership, the growing influence of MindChamps has also caught the attention of #1 New York Times and Wall Street Journal Best-Selling Author, Joseph A. Michelli, who has studied and written about leading global organisations such as the Mercedes-Benz, Starbucks and Ritz-Carlton. Dr Michelli has described MindChamps as "a calling, a revolution, and a movement". In his latest book, *The MindChamps Way – How to Turn an Idea into a Global Movement*, Dr Michelli hails MindChamps as "influencing the future of individuals, families, communities, countries, and the education system worldwide." David's unique perspective on education grew out of his illustrious career in theatre and film. His ability to inspire a global education movement, synthesising a new approach to learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has drawn together like-minded experts, from the four domains of Neuroscience, Psychology, Theatre and Education, who share his expansive vision. David's ability to creatively 'cross boundaries' is best exemplified by the association he has forged between MindChamps and world famous and Marconi Prize winner, neuroscientist Professor Emeritus Allan Snyder (Fellow of the Royal Society). To quote Prof. Emeritus Snyder, "David Chiem is a man who has crossed many bridges of success to achieve a remarkable synthesis of art, education and entrepreneurship." From having to flee war-ravaged Vietnam at a young age to not being able to speak a word of English when he first arrived in Australia in 1978, David has gone on to be Founder CEO and Executive Chairman of an SGX mainboard listed company with a presence in Singapore, Australia, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar and Malaysia, David Chiem has certainly shown that he has a real Champion Mindset to overcome adversity.

James Cook University Business Excellence Award, for the organisation which has demonstrated the most outstanding performance in its field. **2019 winner: Icon SOC**

Icon SOC, previously Singapore Oncology Consultants [SOC] became part of Icon Group in 2016. Icon Group is Australia's largest dedicated provider of cancer care with a growing reach into Asia and New Zealand. Since SOC's formation in 2006, the company has been led by a prominent cohort of specialists who established private medical oncology in Singapore across four clinics. Since acquisition, Icon SOC has leveraged local Singaporean expertise alongside the Group's in-depth experience in operating a large-scale cancer care network, to expand their footprint and capacity to deliver holistic cancer care.

Over the past three years, Icon SOC has seen significant growth having extended from four to seven clinics and introducing haematology and radiation oncology services in 2018. This extension of services has created a comprehensive approach to care, allowing Icon SOC to support more cancer patients through every step of the journey. The continued strength of the business has further attracted a new generation of specialists, going from six to twelve doctors, further securing interest from local oncologists resulting in increased capacity and clinical capabilities, while setting the foundations for future growth locally and across the ASEAN region.

CSIRO Innovation Award, for the individual or organisation that has demonstrated innovation through bringing progressive and new ideas to business in priority sectors. **2019 winner: MMA Offshore - "MMA Pinnacle Walk to Work Project"**

With International operations based in Singapore and Corporate Head Office in Fremantle, Western Australia, MMA Offshore is one of the largest oil and gas marine service providers in the Asia Pacific region employing close to 1,000 personnel across their operations. MMA employs close to 60 people in its Singapore Office and operates an Onshore Support Facility in Tuas, Singapore.

The "MMA Pinnacle Walk to Work Project" utilised engineering, technical and marine expertise from MMA's Singapore Office and Tuas Onshore Facility to design and implement a unique marine solution for an Australian client. The solution has paved the way for an innovative, safer and more efficient approach to offshore platform maintenance logistics in the North West Shelf Region of Australia. Prior to this project, helicopters had been the method used to transport maintenance personnel to and from offshore platforms during shutdown operations in this region. MMA developed a unique marine solution to provide a safe crew transfer methodology. The designed solution and technology used represented a first of its kind for platform shutdown maintenance in the North West Shelf region of Australia and in addition to the safety benefits, resulted in significant time and cost savings.

Note: AustCham is the peak body representing Australian business in Singapore. With over 700 individual and 500 company members, AustCham is one of the largest Australian business chambers in Asia.