

MEDIA RELEASE

TWO CHARITIES CONFERRED INAUGURAL CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARDS 2012

The inaugural Charity Governance Awards were today conferred by the Charity Council on the Singapore Association for Mental Health and the Society for the Physically Disabled.

2. The Singapore Association for Mental Health (SAMH) was presented with the top award for Category 1 (small and medium charities/IPC's) while the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) took the award for Category 2 (large charities/IPC's). Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Lawrence Wong, presented the winners each with a plaque and a cash prize of \$10,000 sponsored by Lee Foundation.

3. An initiative of the Charity Council and organised in partnership with the NUS Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP), the Awards honour charities that have adopted the highest standards of governance and implemented best practices to ensure sustained effectiveness. The evaluation and judging process was facilitated by the independent partner, ACSEP, and a judging panel of five people-sector professionals, namely:

- Mr Terry Alan Farris, Chief Development Officer, Nanyang Technological University
- Dr Lan Luh Luh, Associate Professor, NUS Business School and Faculty of Law
- Mr Sim Guan Seng, Managing Partner, Baker Tilly TFW LLP
- Ms Joy Tan, Partner, WongPartnership LLP
- Ms Yap Su-Yin, Deputy CEO, Tan Chin Tuan Foundation

4. On the award winners, Mrs Fang Ai Lian, Chairman of the Charity Council, remarked, "SAMH and SPD have demonstrated exemplary governance that far exceeds expectations and we believe they are deserving winners of the Awards."

5. Prof. Daniel Fung, President of SAMH believes that good governance is the collective responsibility of everyone in the organisation. "In SAMH, we try to empower everyone, from volunteers to staff, to be accountable for our work and exercise leadership in helping people with mental illness in our society."

6. For Ms Chia Yong Yong, President of SPD, good governance has helped them to carry out their work more efficiently and effectively. "We strive to be transparent, efficient and effective. Meeting the high standards we have set for ourselves has helped us to deploy our scarce resources more efficiently, and to serve our clients more professionally."

THE CHARITY COUNCIL

6 November 2012

About the Charity Governance Awards

The Charity Governance Awards (CGA) recognises charities that have adopted the highest standards of governance. An initiative of the Charity Council, the CGA aims to promote good governance in the charity sector by acknowledging the excellent work of charities, while inspiring others to emulate their best practices.

There are two award categories:

- Category 1 – Charity Governance Award for small and medium charities/PCs (gross annual receipts of up to \$10 million)
- Category 2 – Charity Governance Award for large charities/PCs (gross annual receipts of \$10 million or more)

To be nominated for the Awards, the organisation must:

- be in operation in Singapore for at least three years as of 31 Mar 2011
- have complied (either in fact or with suitable aspects deemed "not applicable" explained) with ALL guidelines and principles at their respective tier within the Code of Governance for Charities and PCs (January 2011 edition with checklist 1 April 2011)

About the Charity Council

The Council was set up in October 2006 to promote a culture of good governance and self-regulation in the charity sector. It seeks to be a:

- Promoter** - encourage adoption of good governance standards and best practices, enhance public confidence in the charity sector;
- Enabler** - help build the governance capabilities of charities to enable them to comply with regulatory requirements and enhance public accountability of charities; and
- Advisor** - advise the Commissioner of Charities (COC) on key regulatory issues where there may be broad-ranging impact on the charity sector.

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