



26 August 2023

**[MEDIA RELEASE] Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Joint Tuition Awards by the Self-Help Groups**

The 20th Joint Tuition Awards was held on Saturday 26 August at the Nanyang Polytechnic Auditorium, 180 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8, Singapore 569830.

The JTA was jointly organised by the four Self-Help Groups (SHGs) – the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), the Eurasian Association (EA), the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) and Yayasan MENDAKI (MENDAKI). Guest-of-Honour, Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development, graced the event.

The JTA celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. At the 2023 ceremony, 883 students from the four races were recognised for their good performance in the PSLE, GCE N-Level and O-Level examinations. 16 students received the best overall performer award (4 from each SHG). All students who received awards had attended the Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP) jointly run by the SHGs, which provides students of all races the accessibility and convenience of enrolling into any of the SHG tuition centres. There are 175 CTP centres as at 2023, compared to just 11 centres when the programme first started in 2002, testament to the programme's success over the years.



## Featured students:

### **PSLE-Level Category – Rio Janeiro Beins-Au (EA)**

Rio Janeiro Beins-Au, from St. Gabriel's Primary School, joined the Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP) for English in early 2021. He was facing challenges in focusing on his studies, but steadily progressed academically throughout the year, and eventually met his goals for the PSLE examinations.

The CTP's small class size and positive environment helped in Rio's academic journey, enhancing his concentration and focus. The guidance from his CTP tutor was also invaluable, equipping him with strategies to quickly and clearly analyse English passages during exams. Rio's positive outlook not only shows promise for his future academic goals, but also fuels his aspiration to inspire his younger sister to do well in her studies. Reflecting on his journey so far, he said, 'Without the invaluable support of the CTP, I would not have secured my spot in St. Gabriel's Secondary School, which was the school I aspired for. Remember, our aim is progress, not perfection.'

### **GCE NT-Level Category (Best Overall Student) – Muhammad Akhyar Bin Mohiddin (SINDA)**

Muhammad Akhyar Bin Mohiddin, 18, felt demoralised and unmotivated during the early years of his secondary school education due to his moderate academic performance.

After enrolling in SINDA's STEP programme, Akhyar's tutor played an instrumental role in boosting his enthusiasm for learning, offering opportunities to push his boundaries within lessons and providing valuable examination tips, contributing significantly to Akhyar's educational journey. Akhyar experienced improved concentration in his studies, leading to an improvement in his grades.

With renewed enthusiasm, Akhyar found himself being able to focus more efficiently on his studies and saw his grades improve drastically - a four-grade advancement in Science and a three-grade improvement in Mathematics. He is currently enrolled in the Higher NITEC in Electronics Engineering at ITE Central with a desire to further his studies at the polytechnic and has aspirations of becoming a Mechanical Engineer.



### **GCE NA-Level Category (Best Overall Student) – Ameenuddin Abdul Samad (MENDAKI)**

Ameenuddin Abdul Samad, 17, enrolled in the MENDAKI Tuition Scheme (MTS) when he was in Primary 5. Back then, he needed additional learning support due to moderate academic performance. After attaining his Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) results, Ameenuddin was eligible to enrol in Bukit Panjang Government High School in the Normal Academic stream. In secondary school, the MTS classes helped him better understand and grasp difficult subject concepts. His tutors and friends helped and motivated him to continue to strive for the best. Ameenuddin's tutors were also patient to review the subject concepts with him to ensure that he understood all concepts well. This has led to improvement in his grades.

At the GCE N(A) Level examinations, Ameenuddin achieved Grade 2 for English, Grade 1 for Mathematics and Grade 2 for Science. Now, he is pursuing his studies in Information Technology at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. He aspires to succeed in the Tech sector and contribute to the community through his work in Tech.

### **GCE O-Level Category (Best Overall Student) – Chen Si Ying (CDAC)**

Si Ying's transformative academic journey took flight through the CDAC Secondary 2-4 Mathematics tuition programme. Overcoming subject challenges, she gained confidence in the supportive and conducive learning environment, as dedicated and experienced teachers guided her through complex concepts. She had a pivotal moment during her Secondary 4 Math class, where her presentation on Math solutions both deepened her understanding and sparked belief in her abilities, boosting her confidence in the subject.

Her mother's unwavering support was crucial, especially in Mandarin. Guided by her mother in the subject, and with her belief and encouragement, Si Ying's determination culminated in an impressive B3 in O-Level Chinese. Si Ying highly regards her mother's dedication to both household responsibilities, as well as her concern for her academic development.

Now in Year 5 at River Valley High School, Si Ying aspires to pursue environmental and sustainability studies at NUS, fueled by her passion for marine life and her mother's guidance. She envisions making a significant impact in an eco-conscious world, as she strides towards a promising and impactful future.



## Factsheet

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Joint Tuition Awards by the Self-Help Groups Saturday, 26 August 2023, Nanyang Polytechnic Auditorium, 3pm to 5pm

#### Background

The Joint Tuition Awards (JTA) ceremony celebrates the achievements of students from all four races who attend the Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP). It recognises the academic improvement of tuition students who have taken the PSLE, GCE N-Level and O-Level examinations, and is jointly held by the four Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), The Eurasian Association, Singapore (EA), the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) and Yayasan MENDAKI (MENDAKI).

Held since 2004, the JTA celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The ceremony was graced by Mr Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Social and Family Development.

#### Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP)

The SHGs launched the Collaborative Tuition Programme (CTP) in 2002, to give students from low-income families' access to affordable tuition island-wide. From 11 centres in 2002, there are 175 centres across the island in 2023.

#### 2023 JTA Awardees

883 students from the four SHGs received awards this year. The breakdown is as follows:

	CDAC	SINDA	MENDAKI	EA	Total
PSLE	170	236	99	4	509
N-Level	52	12	74	2	140
O-Level	125	48	59	2	234
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>883</b>



## About the Self-Help Groups

### **Chinese Development Assistance Council**

Jointly set up by the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA) in 1992, the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC) is a non-profit self-help group for the Chinese community. CDAC offers programmes and assistance schemes to help the less-privileged in the community to maximise their potential and strive for social mobility through self-help and mutual support.

Visit [www.cdac.org.sg](http://www.cdac.org.sg) for more information.

### **The Eurasian Association**

The Eurasian Association (EA) was formed in 1919, and has a more than 100-year history of representing and serving the Eurasian community in Singapore. In 1994, the EA was formally accorded 'Self-Help Group' status by the Government.

The EA provides services for the community in three key areas: It supports children and youth through *Education* programmes, assists less fortunate members of the community through *Family Support Services*, and brings people from different backgrounds together through *Community Development* initiatives, to strengthen community bonds and promote inter-racial harmony in Singapore.

As part of its mandate to serve the community, the EA also works towards preserving the unique Eurasian heritage and traditions, including Eurasian dance, food and language. The Eurasian Community House is the home of the EA and Eurasian Heritage Gallery and is a focal point for the Eurasian community to work together.

Visit [www.eurasiang.org.sg](http://www.eurasiang.org.sg) for more information.



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## **Singapore Indian Development Association**

The Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) was set up in August 1991 to address educational and socio-economic issues facing the Indian community in Singapore.

SINDA actively strives to build a well-educated and confident community of Indians that stands together with the other communities in contributing to the progress of multi-racial Singapore. In the course of fulfilling its objectives, SINDA works closely with many volunteers, schools and grassroots organisations. In the process, SINDA has steadily evolved into a credible organisation that serves as a pillar of the Singapore Indian community.

Today, SINDA runs a wide array of programmes that not only effectively serves to uplift the educational performance of Indian students, but also promotes family harmony and uplifts the social status of ethnic Indians.

Visit [www.sinda.org.sg](http://www.sinda.org.sg) for more information.

## **Yayasan MENDAKI**

Formed on 10 October 1982, Yayasan MENDAKI (Council for the Development of Singapore Malay/Muslim Community) is a pioneer Self-Help Group in Singapore. Its programmes assist students and individuals with education and training, helping to uplift the Malay/Muslim community's educational performance and develop its resilience and adaptability. MENDAKI also charts its strategic directions based on three pillars — School Ready, Perform in School and Future Ready.

The School Ready pillar focuses on laying the foundation for pre-schoolers to ensure school readiness. At the other end of the spectrum, the Future Ready programmes generate awareness for lifelong learning and facilitate the cultivation of competencies and acquisition of skills for the competitive talent market of the future economy. Programmes under the Perform in School pillar, which have formed the bedrock of MENDAKI's programmes since its formation, focus on providing holistic support towards learning throughout the school years.

MENDAKI continues to work extensively with partners that share and support its vision and mission. They consist of government agencies, schools, mosques, Malay/Muslim organisations, employers, community centres and MAECs, family and student service centres and many more.

Visit [www.mendaki.org.sg](http://www.mendaki.org.sg) for more information.