

CELEBRATING OSSEA'S
85th ANNIVERSARY

The Singapore

Orchid Ball 2013

Text by Peggy Tan. Photos by Goh Juan Hui,
Shannon Heng & Elbert Wijaya

Held on 2 August 2013 at the Conrad Centennial Singapore, the gala fundraise evening also celebrated OSSEA's 85th anniversary, and was a success in many ways. Every one of the 31 tables was filled to the brim and there was a heady buzz in the air with much mingling amongst friends, casual acquaintances and people in the orchid business.

OSSEA is honoured to have the Minister for National Development Mr Khaw Boon Wan as our Guest-of-Honour. He not only went on stage to congratulate the Master Hybridisers and successful auction bidders of naming rights hybrids, but also subsequently walked over to several tables to speak with the guests, and especially the orchid growers.

It was also a night to honour our unsung heroes – the Master Hybridisers who, together with their compatriots, have over several decades created a hugely diverse number of excellent orchids, many of them winning accolades not just at home but overseas.



Left: Tan Hoon Siang The Master Hybridiser trophy. Above: JB Tay, OSSEA Chair of Award Judging, points out the excellent traits of each hybrid selected for auction.



Above: Peggy Tan introduces Guest-of-Honour Mr Khaw to members of the Nanyang Orchid Association (standing, from left) Tan Kok Wee, Neo Tuan Hong and Phua Gik Song.

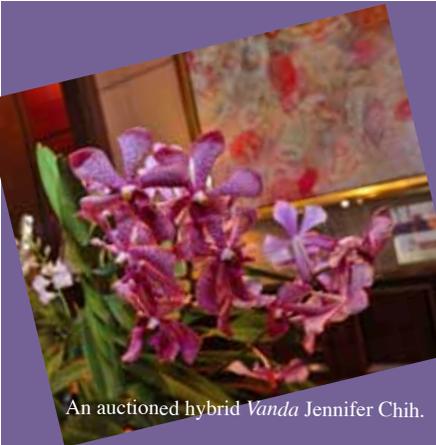


Above: John Tan presents Tan Hoon Siang Master Hybridiser trophy to Syed Yusof Alsagoff, to applause from other trophy recipients on stage. Left: Mr Khaw with OSSEA members Mr & Mrs YS Phoon (seated), Peggy Tan (standing) and Syed Yusof Alsagoff (standing). Right: The Conrad Centennial Ballroom was filled to capacity.



Above: Syed Yusof with executives from Gardens by the Bay. Below: Mr Khaw with John Tan (far right) and Master Hybridiser Award recipients





An auctioned hybrid *Vanda* Jennifer Chih.



OSSEA members JB Tay, Sean Williamson and Gillian Khew.



Member Linda Soo-Tan and friends.



Past President John Elliott, surrounded on stage by *Vanda* Tan Hoon Siang plants, delivers a tribute to our master hybridisers.



Member Mrs Nancy Ng (third from left) with family and friends.



Treasurer Dave Yeo and Mrs Yeo (both left) with members Michael Tan and Stanley Ang.



Chairman of Garden City Fund Professor Leo Tan (far left) with Ms TC Chu and John Elliott.



OSSEA member and Botanic Gardens staff David Lim with JB Tay, AVA CEO Ms Tan Poh Hong and Prof Leo Tan.



Mr Khaw enjoys the company of OSSEA friends and guests.



Members (from left, standing): Sue Cheng, Tan Lye Hua and Suzanne Ong; (seated) Ruth Quek, Judy Ong and Lin Tsui Ling.



Shelley Siu from the Singapore Shawl (left) with Lim Guat Bee.



Member Norman Wee (right) and wife (in red) with relatives.

Many of these orchids have made our horticulture exports what it is today. Each of the gentlemen went on stage to receive the Tan Hoon Siang Award Trophy from Tan Jiew Hoe, son of OSSEA's former President Tan Hoon Siang and the man credited with putting Singapore on the world orchid map with the incomparable *Vanda* Tan Chay Yan, which won a Gold Award at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1954.

A major feature of the evening was an auction for naming rights to four exquisite hybrids donated by top breeders How Wai Ron, Neo Tuan Hong, Toh Gardens and Law Moi Hwa (Gardens by the Bay), together with an auction of a one-of-a-kind exclusive evening shawl specially created by Shelley Siu the founder of The Singapore Shawl, conducted by past president John Elliott who has lost none of his commendably persuasive skills, proceeds from the auctions will go to help run the society's many programmes and meet other operating expenses.

Like most galas, we have received substantial gifts for lucky draw prizes, with the top two prizes being complimentary free-stays at two Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts. Many well-

wishers also contributed items ranging from orchid plants to chocolate treats, and these items went into 'goody bags' for each guest to take home.

Members who have not sat in our numerous committee meetings over the last few months have no idea of the untold number of hours spent on a multitude of tasks and nail-biting moments that go towards organizing such a complex event. But I am glad that the evening's programme went without a hitch, and only have my organizing committee to thank for this. I am very appreciative of the goodwill generated amongst guests, friends and well-wishers, and with this level of support, we can look forward to another 85 good years of generating, encouraging and maintaining interest in orchids in Singapore and beyond our shores.

My grateful thanks to John Elliott and JB Tay for naming rights auction, Sue Cheng for ppt presentation, K Gopalan and Wong Siew Kwun for Master of Ceremony duties; John Tan Jiew Hoe for VIP gifts, Goh Teck Wah, Lin Tsui Ling, Tan Lye Hua, Judy Ong, Goh Juan Hui, Gillian Khew, Sean Williamson, Dave Yeo, Juliana Lim, Patricia Thum, Suzanne Ong, Neo Tuan Hong, David Lim, Ame Lim, Elbert Wijaya, Peggy Yap, Ruth Quek, Mr and Mrs Shannon Heng, Stanley Ang, Michael Tan, Raymond Chan and many others who may have been overlooked but nevertheless have so generously helped in one way or another to make our anniversary celebration a memorable event. Last but not least, our one-person secretariat Lim Guat Bee whose rare ability to plan, disseminate and hold everything together with a steady grip is to be applauded.



Mrs Yeo Hee Lien (fourth from left) with friends.

The table of Master of Ceremony Wong Siew Kwun (standing, far right) and Michelle Lam (standing, second from left) with respective families and friends, including members Lucy Leong (seated, far right) and Elbert Wijaya (standing, black tie).

