

## Media Release

### To News Editors

#### SAFRA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF RECOGNISING NSMEN

SAFRA celebrated its Golden Jubilee together with its volunteers and corporate partners at the SAFRA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner & 16<sup>th</sup> SAFRA Awards Presentation held at SAFRA Mount Faber this evening. The event was also graced by several past Presidents of SAFRA.

Speaking during the dinner, Minister for Defence and Chairman of SAFRA Board of Governors Dr Ng Eng Hen acknowledged SAFRA's unique purpose of appreciating and strengthening bonds among NSmen, and how far it has come in fulfilling its mission, as it turns 50 this year.

Dr Ng said, "50 years ago, the late Dr Goh Keng Swee launched and inaugurated SAFRA and gave two clear and simple goals. He used the word "concrete form", to show appreciation for NSmen for their service to Singapore and Singaporeans –that's one clear goal. In practice, what we have tried to do, SAFRA, sought to provide the same facilities, which private, exclusive and expensive clubs afford or give to their members at very high prices, but at SAFRA the concept was to give them the same facilities that they have access to and at affordable prices."

"There was a second goal, which was to provide a sense of belonging among NSmen to the Singapore Armed Forces and to instil in them pride in being an NSmen, to build bonds and cohesion. I have paraphrased some words, but this was the intent that the late Dr Goh Keng Swee put out. So I thought in our fiftieth anniversary; it's an appropriate, opportune juncture to ask ourselves if we have met these two simple goals. I think most NSmen and Singaporeans would say a resounding yes."

Today, SAFRA has six clubs island-wide, serving close to 475,000 members. SAFRA clubs islandwide provide a wide array of facilities that match private clubs, while keeping SAFRA membership fees affordable at \$40 per annum.<sup>1</sup> Over 3,000 SAFRA members and their families visit each SAFRA club daily, and SAFRA's current network of six clubs attracts an average footfall of over 7.1 million annually. To better serve NSmen and their families who live or work in the North-West of Singapore, NSmen and their families can also look forward to the opening of SAFRA's seventh clubhouse in Choa Chu Kang next year, which is themed as a 'Fitness Oasis', and will feature an integrated fitness and wellness hub, sky running track, sheltered futsal court and sheltered swimming pool.

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<sup>1</sup> For instance, beyond the usual swimming pools and sports facilities, SAFRA clubs also feature unique and top-in-class facilities such as Splash @ Kidz Amaze – the first indoor water playground in Singapore, the largest indoor air weapons range, competitive-level bowling centres and EnergyOne gyms which clinched Gym of the Year at the Fitness Best Asia Awards in both 2017 and 2021. SAFRA clubs also house preschools, enrichment centres and a wide variety of F&B outlets offering international cuisines to cater to the varied lifestyle and lifestage needs and preferences of NSmen and their families.

Aside from providing clubhouse facilities, SAFRA has also continued to play an active part in building bonds and cohesion among NSmen and their families. SAFRA organises a wide variety of activities throughout the year, engaging over 1 million NSmen and their families annually.<sup>2</sup>

With the support of businesses and organisations, SAFRA members also enjoy special discounts and privileges at over 2,000 merchant outlets islandwide, which offer them greater savings in appreciation of their service to the nation.

Dr Ng added, “50 years on, SAFRA has done very well in fulfilling its mission...With the active inputs and contributions of NSmen volunteers and support from businesses and the community, I am confident that SAFRA can continue to thrive in the decades ahead.”

### **Volunteers & Corporate Partners Recognised for their Contributions**

During the event, Dr Ng and Senior Minister of State for Defence and President of SAFRA Mr Zaqy Mohamad presented awards to individuals and businesses for their service and contributions towards the NSmen community. A record number of 168 recipients<sup>3</sup> were recognised this year.

### **Over \$800,000 Raised For Charity**

To mark its Golden Jubilee this year, SAFRA also organised an expanded range of charitable initiatives which raised over \$800,000 to help those in need. The funds go towards helping low-income families, vulnerable children and those with disabilities through the President’s Challenge and SAF Care Fund, along with other beneficiaries adopted by the initiatives.

Led by NSmen volunteers, a string of six SAFRA Cares charitable initiatives were organised throughout the year, each anchored by one of the six SAFRA clubs. These included the SAFRA Wheels & Feet Charity Challenge, SAFRA Esports Fiesta with a Heart, SAFRA Charity Bowl, SAFRA Diaper Dash, SAFRA Swim for Hope, as well as the ongoing Let’s Gift For A Reason initiative which will end on 18 December 2022.

Let’s Gift For A Reason provides NSmen and the public with the opportunity to fulfil the wishes of less privileged children by donating gifts, or to fund care packs comprising daily essentials for low income households.

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<sup>2</sup> This also includes a series of We Thank NSmen initiatives in collaboration with various community partners, as well as 500 cohesion activities for more than 45,000 NSmen to strengthen camaraderie among their NS units.

<sup>3</sup> Comprises 159 volunteers, two interest groups and seven corporate partners. This also includes a total of 149 volunteers who received Long Service Awards for lengths of service ranging from 5 years to 40 years.

Collectively, over 16,000 NSmen and their families have participated in the series of SAFRA Cares charitable initiatives so far. The SAFRA Cares initiatives also drew strong support from corporate and individual donors, including NSmen who donated their NS55 Credits.

Kindly refer to the following for more information:

- Annex A – List of 16<sup>th</sup> SAFRA Awards recipients
- Annex B – Fact sheet on SAFRA Cares charitable initiatives

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### **About SAFRA National Service Association**

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social, educational and cultural programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence. SAFRA currently has a network of six clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Punggol, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs are a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for members and their families.

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*Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 1 December 2022*

## 16<sup>th</sup> SAFRA Awards Recipients

### Fact Sheet

Award Category	Recipient
Distinguished Service Award	BG (RET) Toh Winston, PBM***
Meritorious Service Awards (Gold)	LTC (NS) Chow Cheek Kai**
	Mr Lee Chung Wei
	LTC (NS) Quek Terence, BBM
Meritorious Service Awards (Silver)	MAJ (NS) Khoo Sze Boon**
	COL (NS) Lam Toa-Yee, Eugene
	COL (NS) Lim Jew Pean*
Meritorious Service Awards (Bronze)	BG Choo Frederick
	Ms Lim Mei Mei**
	Mr Pang Lawrence Raphael*
	Mr Tin It Phong**
Commendation Awards (Individual)	Mr Goh Thong**
	Mr Khoo Tian Wei, Nelson**
	MAJ (NS) Koh Ping Haw, Justin*
	SLTC (NS) Lee Chee Chow, Roysten*
	Mr Lim Tze Wei
	MSG (NS) Ma Benjamin*
	Mr Nur Iskandar Putra Mohd Jufri**
	LTC (NS) Ow Tai Zhi
	COL (NS) Tan Yeow Tiong*
	Mr Tan Yong Hui, Brian**
	MAJ (NS) Wong Yuet Nan****
	LCP (NS) Yeo Wu Sheng, Donald

\*Also a recipient of Long Service Award (5 Years)

\*\*Also a recipient of Long Service Award (10 Years)

\*\*\*Also a recipient of Long Service Award (15 Years)

\*\*\*\*Also a recipient of Long Service Award (20 Years)

Award Category	Recipient
Commendation Awards Corporation – With Special Mention	DBS Bank Ltd
	Kinderland International Education Pte Ltd
Commendation Awards Corporation	Comfort Transportation Pte Ltd
	Fairprice Online
	James Cook University
	Shopee
	Singapore University of Social Sciences
Commendation Awards Interest Group	SAFRA Community Services Club
	SAFRA Photographic Club
Outstanding New Volunteer Awards	Mr Chew Wei Qiang, Joel
	Mr Lai JianQuan, Aaron
	MAJ (NS) Liu Jiahao, Ivan

<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
Long Service Awards (40 Years)	Mr Koh Tian Poh, Richard
Long Service Awards (35 Years)	Mr Seah Seow Kang, Steven
Long Service Awards (30 Years)	Mr Chick Wing Hang, Victor
	Mr Chua Teck Huat, Bill, BBM
	Mr Lee Bon Kwe
	Mr Lee Tiong Seng, Phillip
	Mr Lian Bian
Long Service Awards (25 Years)	MAJ (RET) Abdul Samad
	Mr Chong Siak Yen, Gerald
	Mr Hoong Bee Lok
	Mr Kam Kim San, Timothy
	Ms Kee Lay Lian
	Mr Khoo Ghee Whatt, Jeremy
	Mr Lee Teck Hai
	Mr Lim Kheng Huat, Jim
	SSG (NS) Low Kim Joo, Vincent
	Mr Ng Lee Chye, John
	Mr Ng Yong Ern, Raymond
	Mr Tan Hock Leng
	Mr Tan Kay Hian
	Long Service Awards (20 Years)
LTC (RET) Cheah Phee Bok, Bob	
Mr Choo Joshua	
Ms Florence Khemlani	
Mr Guek Peng Siong	
Mr Ho Lye Sum	
COL (RET) Lau Kee Siong	
Mr Lee Gem Song	
Ms Lee Hong Eng, Patricia	
1WO (NS) Leng Chiak Sun	
Mr Lim Chee Soon, Kevin	
Mr Ng Teck Hua, Robin	
Mr Ong Choon Seng	
1WO (NS) Thenagaran Subramaniam	
SWO (RET) Wee Cheng Leong, William	
Dr Wong Keng Siong	
Mr Wong Swee Chan	
Long Service Awards (15 Years)	
	CPL (NS) Chua Yih Shing
	Mr Ng Calvin
	CPT (NS) Quek Chee Heong
	Mr Seah Chiong Tian
	Mr Sze Toh Khai Munn
	SLTC (NS) Tan Lee Thong, Kelvin
	Mr Tan Tong Sin, Jefferyston
	MWO (RET) Tye Lee Sun
Mr Wong Poh Hua, Wilbert	

Award Category	Recipient
Long Service Awards (10 Years)	Mr Ang Choo Wee
	Mr Bala Uthayachanran
	Mr Cham Kong Wah
	Mr Cheong Hai Poh
	Ms Chng Saw Ming, Belinda
	2WO (RET) Chua Boon Heong, James
	Mr Keok Tong San
	Mr Koe Su An, Robin
	Ms Koh Lay Hoon, Sandy
	SLTC (NS) Koh Patrick
	COL (RET) Lam Charn Wye, Peter
	Mr Lee Kok Seng
	Mr Liew Chiew Sheng
	MWO (NS) Lim Chin Tiong
	Mr Low Eng Teong
	Mr Ng Lee Tak
	Mr Ng Timothy
	Mr Sim Wee Keng
	Mr Siva Shanmugam
	Mr Soh Bee Leng, Richard
	MAJ (RET) Soh Ghiaw Kheng, Peter
	CPT (NS) Soh Soon Heng, Simon
	Mr Tan Adrian
	MAJ (NS) Tan Chen-Wei, Darryl
	CPT (NS) Dr Tan Frankie
	Mr Tan Kheng Teck, Kevin
	Mr Tan Kwang Cheak
	Ms Tan Lay Har
	Mr Tan Siak Chay
	Mr Tay Ericz Ezekiel
	CPT (NS) Teo Kin Soon
Mr Toh Peng Ann	
Ms Yeo Shu Yuh, Ivy	
Mr Yoong Ee Chuan	

Award Category	Recipient
Long Service Awards (5 Years)	CPL (NS) Ang Andrew
	3WO (NS) Ang Wee Tat, Wayne
	Ms Chai Jasmine
	Mr Chan Derek
	MAJ (NS) Chen Chuanjian, Jason
	Mr Cheong Seng Meng
	Mr Cher Lew Err, Andrew
	1WO (RET) Chew Eddy
	CPL (NS) Chia Shu Siang
	LTC (NS) Choe Evan
	MAJ (NS) Chua How Kiat
	Mr Eng Chung Lin, John
	Ms Fan Stella
	CPT (NS) Foo Cexin, Lewis
	Ms Foo Peilin
	Mr Goh William
	SLTC (NS) Halmie Bin Hussein Mattar
	Mr Koh Boon Check
	Mr Koh Boon Thiam, Ben
	Ms Koh Joanne
	Mr Lee Soon Onn, Sonny
	Mr Leo Teng Jung, John
	Mr Leong Tien Chue, Harry
	Mr Leong Yew Hock, Rudin
	ME5-2 (NS) Lian Chin Wah, Daniel
	Mr Lim Melvin
	Mr Lim Swee Chye, Simon
	Mr Lim Teck Leng, Raymond
	Mr Lim Yong Chin, Lawrence
	Mr Loy Dek Ee, Jackson
	LTA (NS) Mohammad Khairul Bin Yunos
	Mr Muhamad Imaduddien Bin Abd Karim
	Mr Neo Wee Beng, Mike
	Mr Ng Meng Ghee, Kervin
LTC (NS) Ng Yong Kiat, Francis	
LTC (NS) Ong Pheng Hong, Evert	
Mr Peh Hudson	
Mr Poh Hee Hian	
Mr Quek Chee Tiong, Alvin	
3SG (NS) Rajavarman M	
Mr Seow Khiam Huat	
Mr Tan Boon Wee, Jeffrey	

Award Category	Recipient
Long Service Awards (5 Years)	CPL (NS) Tan Jovan
	MAJ (NS) Tan Yanhe, Lucas
	CPL (NS) Tang Arvin
	Mr Tang Teck Wah
	SGT (NS) Teo Jun Kai
	COL (NS) Toh Han Li
	Mr Wee Chong Yee
	Mr Wong Anthony
	Assoc. Prof. Wong Hwee Boon, Daniel
	Mr Wong Kok Cho

## SAFRA CARES CHARITABLE INITIATIVES

### Fact Sheet

In commemoration of SAFRA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, an expanded range of SAFRA Cares charitable initiatives were organised in 2022, including six main events. Funds were raised through registration fees, corporate and individual donations.

Date	Description	Organiser	Beneficiaries
Apr to May	<p><b>SAFRA Wheels &amp; Feet Charity Challenge</b> Participants had the opportunity to cycle, blade, run or walk for charity over a 50-day period. They were able to clock their registered distance both outdoors and indoors at the gym on relevant exercise equipment such as the stationary bike, treadmill, stepper or elliptical machine.</p>	SAFRA Jurong	President's Challenge
Jul, Oct to Nov	<p><b>SAFRA Esports Fiesta With A Heart</b> Organised in conjunction with the Asia Esports Festival held in July 2022 where participants competed in the Call of Duty Mobile Tournament. In October to November 2022, SAFRA members and SAFRA Tech Club members also had the opportunity to participate in gaming tournaments, talks and an IT Fair with exclusive discounts for SAFRA members as part of the SAFRA Esports Fiesta With A Heart.</p>	Jointly organised by SAFRA Yishun and SAFRA Youth Network	President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund
Aug to Sep	<p><b>SAFRA Charity Bowl</b> A series of bowling tournaments were held across five SAFRA clubs at Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh, Punggol and Yishun to raise funds for charity.</p>	SAFRA Mount Faber	President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund
Sep	<p><b>SAFRA Diaper Dash</b> Into its 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Singapore's largest baby crawling competition was held across all six SAFRA clubs and raised funds for charity for the very first time. The event also featured parenting talks and workshops.</p>	SAFRA Punggol	President's Challenge, SAF Care Fund

<p>Sep to Oct</p>	<p><b>SAFRA Swim for Hope</b>  Into its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, NSmen and their families swam for charity in the Individual categories (1km, 10km, 20km, NS55km), Families for Life Parent-and-Child categories (1km, 5km) and newly introduced Team categories (50km, 100km, 250km)</p>	<p>SAFRA Tampines</p>	<p>President's Challenge, Rainbow Centre, SAF Care Fund, Singapore Swimming Association Development Fund, Special Olympics Singapore.</p>
<p>Nov to Dec</p>	<p><b>Let's Gift For A Reason</b>  Into its 7<sup>th</sup> edition, the initiative is organised across all six SAFRA clubs from 5 November to 18 December and is also held in conjunction with the SG Cares Giving Week (1 to 7 December 2022).</p> <p>NSmen and their families can either:</p> <p>a) <b>Adopt A Wish</b> – Fulfil the wishes of less privileged children by donating gifts worth up to \$30 each by picking a wish from the wish board at any SAFRA club.</p> <p>b) <b>Adopt A Bag</b> – Make a donation to fund care packs containing \$20 worth of basic necessities for low income households.</p> <p>Each care pack consists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jasmine rice</li> <li>• Rice vermicelli</li> <li>• Cream crackers</li> <li>• 3-in-1 Milo powder</li> <li>• Instant noodles (non-spicy)</li> <li>• Pandan kaya spread</li> </ul> <p>For more details, visit <a href="https://www.safragfar.sg/">https://www.safragfar.sg/</a></p>	<p>Jointly organised by SAFRA Toa Payoh, SAFRA Community Services Club and SG Cares Office.</p>	<p>Various beneficiary centres.</p>