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## Press Release

### National Young Leader Award Winner Presented by Acting Minister Lawrence Wong at Halogen Foundation Singapore's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

**Singapore, 29 October 2013** – Mr Lawrence Wong, Acting Minister for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Chairman of National Youth Council, presented the National Young Leader Award to the winner, Audric Ping Wei Xiang, ITE College Central Year 2 student, at educational charity Halogen Foundation Singapore's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

To recognise exceptional young leaders aged between 15-19 years old who are actively contributing to society, Halogen Foundation Singapore launched the National Young Leader Award in their 10<sup>th</sup> year of building young leaders on 29 August 2013.

#### Winner of the National Young Leader Award

Audric Ping emerged as winner from four other finalists that came from ITE College Central, Hwa Chong Institution College, Saint Andrew's Junior College and Raffles Girls' School. These five finalists were chosen from 49 applicants from 17 schools including Secondary Schools, ITEs, Polytechnics and Junior Colleges.

The five finalists were selected based on the five key domains that Halogen believes young leaders need to act upon – to be **actively involved** in community, **driving engagement** of the community in national and world issues, **acting on conviction** on issues they believe in, demonstrating **self leadership** and having the ability to work well and **lead in groups**.

The finalists then went through a round of judging with judges that included Mr Baey Yam Keng, GPC Chairman for Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth, Member of Parliament of Tampines GRC and Ms Sandra Davie, Straits Times Senior Education Correspondent. A component of the score also included online public voting.

The Award winner's privileges include a visit to the National Young Leaders' Day in Sydney organised by Halogen Foundation Australia with air tickets sponsored by Scoot and a 3-6 months internship programme at Halogen Foundation Singapore upon completion of his tertiary education.

Audric Ping Wei Xiang, 18 years old, ITE College Central Year 2 student had the highest overall score and emerged as the winner. Audric comes from a single parent family as his mother passed away when he was 14. He is now on a bursary scheme. He is also a Singapore National Karate Team Player, training from the age of 9. He is actively coaching students in Karate. After reading the news of the girl in India who got raped and passed away in Singapore, it triggered him to support the Singapore Karate Federation in organising

self-defense workshops for women. His ITE project group also won the merit award for the ICreate A&RTs Challenge 2013 for a device they designed to help the visually impaired. Audric is also a volunteer to the Marsiling Civil Circle that organises games and sing-a-long sessions for the old folks in the community.

Audric shares "Many people may feel demoralised and inclined to focus on their miseries and give up. I chose to be strong and treasure whatever I have. It is tough for everyone in my family and I don't want my dad to worry for me. Currently, I am on a bursary scheme but I want to be self sufficient in the long run. To do that, I am working very hard in my studies, hoping to get sponsorships to further my education and provide a better life for my family. My aim is to graduate with a degree and be a good man. Also, many people want to help others but are afraid of all the challenges. For me I like to challenge myself to the maximum of my capability. If I succeed, It's all well and good. If I don't, I will gain experience and I will keep pushing myself until I achieve my goal."

Mr Ang Kiam Wee, Principal of ITE College Central says, "I am proud of Audric's achievement. He truly embodies the values of the ITE education. I believe the skills, values, discipline and resilience instilled in him through development programmes in ITE, together with this award will spur him on to greater success in life. I also hope this award will serve as an encouragement to other youths like Audric. They should not give up or look to the past, but like Audric, know too that they can create their own future and have success."

Mr Lim Soon Hock, Chairman of Halogen Foundation Singapore shares: "In my many years of managing businesses and working with great leaders, what makes a leader stand out is not just his or her business acumen and accomplishments, but his or her commitment and contributions to the community around them. At Halogen, it is our hope and aspiration that this award recognises young leaders aged 15-19 and serves as an inspiration to many generations to come. We believe Audric's story will inspire many youths to be resilient and actively contribute to our community, sowing into Singapore's future."

## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Celebration**

This year, Halogen Foundation Singapore celebrates their 10 years of building young leaders, reaching over **95,000** youths from **60%** of Singapore schools. There were about 330 guests and 31 tables at Halogen's fundraising dinner at Conrad Centennial Dinner. Halogen aimed to raise S\$250,000 through this fundraising dinner.

### **About Halogen Foundation Singapore**

Halogen Foundation Singapore is an educational charity (IPC status) that is focused on youth leadership development. Defining leadership as influence, Halogen believes that every young person can lead and be positive change-agents. As part of a holistic leadership development for youths, Halogen designs Events to inspire, Academy programmes to educate, Projects to generate action, Award to recognise exceptional young leaders, Social communities to facilitate conversations and Lab for research and development. Through these initiatives, Halogen's goal is to influence a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well.

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