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## For Immediate Release

### Inaugural National Young Leader Award Launched at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of National Young Leaders' Day

**Singapore, 29 August 2013** – To recognise exceptional young leaders aged between 15-19 years old who are actively contributing to society, Halogen Foundation Singapore has launched the National Young Leader Award in their 10<sup>th</sup> year of building young leaders. Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, graced the National Young Leaders' Day, an inspirational leadership platform for youths from secondary and tertiary institutions, where the award was launched.

#### Inaugural National Young Leader Award

The five finalists include two students from ITE College Central, Hwa Chong Institution College, Saint Andrew's Junior College and Raffles Girls' School. 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. One of the finalists, Chia Yee Shin, had led her entire school to raise funds for the Sichuan Earthquake Fund-Relief earlier this year.

Martin Tan, Co-Founder of Halogen Foundation Singapore says: "The launch of National Young Leader Award is a dream that had started 5 years ago. We wanted to recognise ordinary young Singaporeans who exemplify leadership qualities not limited to only structured positions but by how they live out their passions daily. Halogen defines leadership as influence, and we often tell young people that they do not need an official position to lead, but they can lead from where they are, from their positions of influence."

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. I am delighted that Halogen Foundation Singapore has launched the National Young Leader Award today to recognise these successful traits at such a young age. At Halogen, it is our hope and aspiration that this award not only recognises the finalists this year but also to serve as an inspiration to many generations to come."

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of National Young Leaders' Day

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Halogen Foundation Singapore has ran National Young Leaders' Day. Halogen was the first to bring such inspirational leadership events to Singapore, focused on inspiring young leaders. Halogen has designed this inspirational

platform to challenge youths to be exposed to different possibilities and to dream for what they want their own future to be.

Some of the Guest-of-Honours who had graced the events over the last ten years include DPM Teo Chee Hean, Mdm Halimah Yacob and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.

Past speakers have included Mr Ho Kwon Ping, Executive Chairman of Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd, Mr Jack Sim, Founder of World Toilet Organisation, Ms Yip Pin Xiu, Team Singapore Para-Athlete and Cheryl Fox, Channel News Asia Reporter.

Over the last ten years, Halogen has reached 93,000 youths of which 23,000 of them were inspired and impacted through National Young Leaders' Days. National Young Leaders' Day continues to be a national platform to expose youths to top leaders in various fields. Through the years, National Young Leaders' Day has expanded to include National Young Leaders' Day Women's Edition and Primary Edition. In total, Halogen has run 19 National Young Leaders' Days including five Women's Editions and six Primary Editions.

In the National Young Leaders' Day Women's Edition earlier this year, Stella Png Zheng Min from Methodist Girls' School shared: "After the event, I was inspired to do something. One thing for sure is that I want to serve more in the community by helping those in need. Yes, I do think I am young, but that should not limit me to do something that will benefit everyone."

In this year's event, the youths were particularly challenged to commit to what they were **game for** in the future through interactive means such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook with the hashtags #IAMGAME #WHATSNEXT.

Together with about 1,000 youths aged 13-19, the five finalists had been inspired by the leadership stories of

- **Budi Soehardi**, CNN Hero of the Year 2009, Founder of Roslin Orphanage in West Timor,
- **Martin Tan**, Co-Founder of Halogen Foundation Singapore, Recipient of Singapore Youth Award 2013
- **Zhang Tingjun**, Co-Founder of The Chain Reaction Project, Former National Netball Player for Singapore
- **Eddie Sung**, International Award-Winning Rock Photographer, Founding Member & Vice President of I Love Children, Singapore

### **About Halogen Foundation Singapore**

Halogen Foundation Singapore is an educational charity that is focused on youth leadership development. Defining leadership as influence, Halogen believes that every young person can lead and be positive change-agents. Through inspirational events, academy programmes, action leadership projects, community groups and research initiatives, Halogen aims to influence a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well. Halogen wants to build young leaders who are both competent and of good character, who will practically change the world through issues they believe in.

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