

ARTFUL BALANCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EY unveils 14 top nominees for 2023 EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Malaysia award, the 22nd year of this prestigious worldwide event.

Ernst & Young has unveiled the top nominees for this year's EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Malaysia award, which seeks to recognise entrepreneurs who are continuously repainting and reframing our economy from innovative new angles through their work ethos via the theme "The Art of Entrepreneurship".

The theme this year pays homage to the artful balance of passion, determination, character and skills that are needed to create businesses that address the most complex challenges and build a better working world.

14 top nominees from the Emerging, Technology, Woman and Master categories were determined by a panel of independent judges guided by a set of judging criteria applied globally by the EY EOY programme.

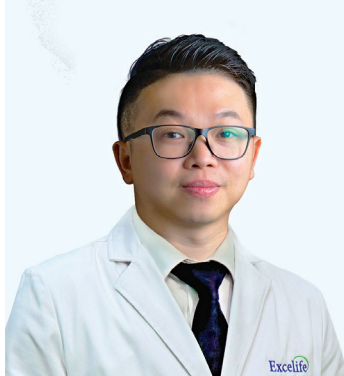
Datuk Abdul Rauf Rashid, Malaysia managing partner at Ernst & Young PLT said that the EOY programme showcases the extraordinary journey of Malaysia's forward thinking business owners over the past 20 years.

"These pioneers have not only challenged the conventions of doing 'business as usual' but have also continued to incorporate sustainable practices into their operations as they reimagine building a better working world. We are proud to share their success stories, valuing not only what they have accomplished but also the indelible mark they leave on our communities and the nation," he says.

Ernst & Young Consulting Sdn Bhd and programme director of EY Entrepreneur of the Year Malaysia Philip Rao chimes in to say that nominees undergo rigorous evaluation processes which span several months, including thorough due diligence and interviews.

"The EOY programme's prestigious reputation continues to draw nominations from diverse backgrounds and industries, reflecting the programme's unwavering commitment to upholding steadfast standards and high benchmarks, a tradition carried forward since its inception," he says.

Emerging top nominees



Ker Chin Keong, managing director E Health Sdn Bhd
With Excelife's extensive network and global resources from seed to shelf, Ker is committed to building a healthier world through an innovative range of patented health supplements which adhere to high ethical standards, a client-focused approach and the prioritisation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations.



William Tan Wei Lun, managing director and CEO ITMAX System Bhd
We continuously innovate to power smart-city initiatives and solutions to reduce traffic congestion and pollution, improve public safety and provide early warning signals for flash floods to improve the quality of life for urban residents.



Ezra Tan Koon Hock, CEO Kairos Harvest Sdn Bhd
I am revolutionising agriculture, empowering teams and crafting transformative global workforce solutions. Through innovation and positive change, I'm building a better working world, one impactful initiative at a time.



Ian Chua (left), CEO and Venon Tian, chief operating officer ZUS Coffee
Apart from providing a speciality coffee experience to Malaysians via omni-channel touchpoints at accessible prices, we take pride in creating job opportunities, championing innovation and sustainability, promoting economic growth and nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit within our team.

Rao also shares that the selection of the top nominees this year was based on the globally benchmarked judging criteria which include entrepreneurial spirit, purpose-driven commitment and sustainable business, growth-oriented innovation in fostering a pioneering culture, and impact achieved through diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions.

The esteemed panel of judges for the EOY 2023 programme include Aeon (M) Bhd group chief merchandise and marketing officer Low Ngai

Yuen, Aerodyne Group founder and group CEO Kamarul A Muhamed, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation secretariat executive director Tan Sri Rebecca Sta Maria, Bursa Malaysia Bhd CEO Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift, Hyrax Oil Sdn Bhd founder and group managing director Datuk Hazimah Zainuddin, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation head of digital investment Raymond Siva and ViTrox Corp Bhd president and CEO Chu Jenn Weng.

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year

award is the first and only truly global awards programme of its kind. It celebrates entrepreneurs through regional and national award programmes in more than 145 cities in over 60 countries.

Ahead of the black-tie event in December, at which the winners will be announced, get to know them and their successful businesses here as we asked them: "How are you building a better working world as an entrepreneur?"

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Technology top nominees



**Dr Raymond Choy, CEO
DOC2US**

At DOC2US, we push the boundaries to provide accessible, affordable and equitable value-based healthcare services to communities while embracing cutting-edge technology and diverse human talents, and championing collaborative innovations and entrepreneurship.



**Giva Kuppusamy, founder and CEO
GK Aqua Sdn Bhd**

As biotech entrepreneurs, we embrace ESG principles in freshwater aquaculture. Through innovative biotechnologies, responsible farming practices and efficient resource management, we aim to create a resilient and environmentally friendly approach for a sustainable aquaculture industry.



**Tommy Lim, managing director
ICT Zone Asia Bhd**

We create a hybrid working world for our people with a home-like office working environment, and digitalise and automate our operations to increase efficiency and productivity, and reduce environmental impact.

Woman top nominees



**Dr Tan Hui Ling, managing director
Bagan Specialist Centre**

We build a better working world by providing better access to value-based quality healthcare for our communities and nation, tapping digitalisation and technology, health promotion, patient-centric care and comprehensive multidisciplinary health services.



**Lee Hui Jing, co-founder
BilaBila Mart**

At BilaBila, we embrace diversity and practise an open style of communication. We want to establish a workplace where everyone can communicate freely to inspire progressive ideas from our employees of various backgrounds and perspectives.



**Sandy Tan Sing Yee, CEO
Optimax Holdings Bhd**

Entrepreneurs can be leaders in creating a loving and caring working culture. As a female entrepreneur, I prioritise well-being, uphold transparency and value honesty. Equality is what I strive for at all times.

Master top nominees



**Vinesh Sinha, founder and CEO
FatHopes Energy Sdn Bhd**

For over a decade, I have been leading this sustainable biofuels business to ensure the omnipresence of waste oil disposal facilities while creating jobs and reducing carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuels with biofuels.



**Datuk Foong Wei Kuong, group managing director
JF Technology Bhd**

As an entrepreneur, I am building a better working world by embodying these 5Gs: Greatness in vision; Gratitude to my team; Grit in leadership; Generosity with my time, words and charitable acts; and showing Grace through forgiveness.



**Ong Hang Ping, CEO and executive director
Sunview Group Bhd**

Sunview prioritises sustainability, with renewable energy as the cornerstone for a greener world. We drive a low-carbon future, generate employment, foster innovation, educate people, confront climate change and enhance the quality of life.