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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**REVIEW : Dutch Chamber of Commerce Singapore (DUTCHCHAM)  
WINSEMIUS AWARDS GALA for Sustainability and Innovation-**

**23 MARCH 2017**

To celebrate the wide array of accomplishments of Dutch and Singaporean businesses, DutchCham organized the Winsemius Awards 2017 for Sustainability & Innovation on March 23. The Awards aim to recognize the achievements of businesses and institutions in areas associated with Dutch business culture and Dutch sector excellence in Singapore, using both Dutch and/or Singaporean resources.



## **About the Awards**

The Winsemius Awards celebrated its third edition this year, organized by DutchCham on Thursday March 23, 2017 at the Grand Hyatt hotel. At the Winsemius Awards Gala Dinner, seven award categories were presented. The awards represent winners whose level of sustainability and innovation is outstanding. Awards were to be won in the categories of Water, Maritime, Food & Nutrition, Professional services, Small Business Rising Star, Singaporean-Dutch Cooperation and Collaborative Innovation.

The honorable Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development & Second Minister of Finance, and H.E. Jacques Werner, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Singapore, were gracing the occasion.

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## **Elaborate review of the evening**

With a remark to the new categories of awards, the increase of guests and the increase of company submissions for the awards this year, Mr Ynse de Boer, President of the Dutch Chamber opened the third annual Winsemius Awards for Sustainability and Innovation.

Ambassador Jacques Werner, followed up on Mr Ynse de Boer, stating that 'Standing still is moving backwards and it is therefore good to see that companies in Singapore value innovation to a great extent'. They acknowledge innovation, sustainability and creativity said Ambassador Werner and he announced a new era of economic growth with sustainability at its core. 'Winsemius created the spirit of bilateral cooperation and we are here to make it last longer'.

Guest of honor and Minister for National Development & Second Minister for Finance, Minister Lawrence Wong, agreed with the Ambassador that we owe a debt to Winsemius 'for standing at the beginning of Singaporean and Dutch cooperation'. Minister Wong recalled being in the Netherlands, in Rotterdam, realizing to be standing below sea level and his conclusion to that experience was that 'it is all about knowing how to adapt and how we must learn from each other'. 'Let's look forward to building a better future together', said Minister Wong and these concluding words are endorsed by the Winsemius Awards.

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## **And the winner is...**

### *For the category Water*

Royal HaskoningDHV was the winner within the category of Water. Mr Mark van Zanten, Senior Project Manager at Royal HaskoningDHV and Dr. M. Karthikeyan, Principal Engineer at Surbana Jurong Consultants gratefully accepted the award, which underlines their poldering project at Pulau Tekong. Being born in the North-East Polder in the Netherlands himself, Mr. Mark van Zanten explained that the link to poldering is both traditionally Dutch as personal to him. Mr. van Zanten is proud to be part of this cooperation and stressed the importance of 'working sustainably while constantly looking forward'. 'The bar is set high in Singapore, but that is the challenge', he said. The Pulau Tekong polder project will realize the first tropical polder and is evidence of the company's adapting capability.

### *For the category Maritime*

The Maritime Award went to Heerema Marine Contractors acknowledging the Sleipnir project that introduces the largest semi-submersible crane vessel in the world. 'I am most proud of the partnership with Sembcorp Marine and of being the first to use Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the offshore industry', Mr. Sipke Schuurmans, Project Director of the Sleipnir project at Heerema said. He emphasized the importance of the partnership and accented that 'we want to be leading in the industry and that is expressed by the use of LNG'. In his brief reaction on stage he also recognized the other nominees AkzoNobel and Keppel Smit Towage and even admitted to using AkzoNobel's paint.

### *For the category Food & Nutrition*

FrieslandCampina won the Food & Nutrition Award, which recognizes the innovation behind its eCommerce platform called Friso Online. Ms. Lies Ellison-Davis, Managing Director Global eCommerce

Business Unit at FrieslandCampina owes the success to her team, she said. She added that 'the characters of the Dutch and Singaporean mentalities and nationalities complement each other and perfectly mix together' which aids to the cooperation with Singapore. The award also praises sustainability, and 'sustainability' Ms. Ellison-Davis said, 'lies in the nature of the company'. 'The sustainability of the products is in line with FrieslandCampina's core of doing business'.

*For the category Professional Services*

Within the category of Professional Services, newcomer Appical was awarded. Appical's business, online onboarding, is particularly sustainable in itself, which is very much in the spirit of the award. Founder of Appical, Mr. Gerrit Brouwers, videocalled from the 'afsluitdijk' in the Netherlands saying that this award is 'an important milestone'. Mr. Clement Ling, the Finance Manager at Appical, received the award on stage. He said to be 'very grateful of DutchCham and the Netherlands Embassy for helping Appical as they were part of building the base and foundation of the company'. The biggest gain from their onboarding, he explained, is efficiency through a personal and systematic approach.

*For the category Small Business Rising Star*

Otonomos was next to be surprised, with the Small Business Rising Star Award. Fully overwhelmed by their win, Mr Jan-Arie Bijloos, Head of Business Development at Otonomos, was more than happy to accept the award. 'What we do is a boring business', he said, 'which is why it is great to see that despite that, it is valued by an award'. Otonomos' FinTech business simply improves life according to Mr. Bijloos. 'We are not the prettiest girl in the classroom, but we are the most intelligent one!' and it is that intelligence that enables Otonomos to solve other companies' issues. Additionally, Otonomos works fully paperless making it utterly sustainable.

*For the category Singaporean-Dutch Cooperation*

The Singaporean-Dutch Cooperation Award went to NUSDeltares for great collaboration in the field of research. 'The award is a demonstration of that collaboration and a recognition of our good working relationship', Professor Wong Sek Man, Director of NUSDeltares, said. Mr. Rinus Vis, Director Singapore Operations and Deltares liaison, agreed with him and explained that they hope to start a new initiative for urban resilience in the South East Asian cities, an idea that has been launched already. 'Due to the projects we do together, our companies grow; their countries grow and even community and society as a whole benefit'.

*For the category Collaborative Innovation*

The final Award of the evening, the Collaborative Innovation Award, went to Unilever. Especially their collaborative and innovative co-working space that was opened in cooperation with Padang & Co, stood out. Ms. Barbara Guerpillon, Head of Unilever Foundry SEAA, felt very proud of this achievement. 'The start-up project by Unilever shows that Singapore is still growing and Unilever supports that. It shows that we need to make it happen and get entrepreneurial spirits in the right direction. Also, we need more entrepreneurs and the best way to accelerate start-ups is to give them the business'. The project encourages bilateral learning and therefore perfectly fits this Award.

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**About Albert Winsemius**

The late Dr Albert Winsemius was a Dutch economist and longtime Chief Economic Advisor to the Singapore Government from 1961 to 1984. He worked closely with Singapore's first generation leaders including Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Dr Goh Keng Swee and Mr Hons Sui Sen. Albert Winsemius, the 'founding father' of Singapore, can be seen as a true representation of the very close ties and connections between Singapore and the Netherlands.

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## Partners of the Winsemius Awards Gala were:



## Partners of the Winsemius Awards Categories were:



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## About DutchCham Singapore

The Dutch Chamber of Commerce (DutchCham) was established in 2008. DutchCham is a non-profit organization representing Dutch Business interests in Singapore. It is committed to connecting businesses and creating business opportunities. It also aims to provide a platform for member companies to showcase their particular skills or knowledge in their area of industry to contribute and facilitate aspiring companies to set up their businesses in Singapore. In 2017 DutchCham will focus on the themes of Collaborative Innovation, Sustainability and Water management as these are areas of excellence for the Dutch Business community in Singapore.

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