



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

MUIS AWARDS CEREMONY 2022

SATURDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2022

ISTANA BANQUET HALL



PREFACE

The Muis Awards is a platform to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the mosque sector, our socio-religious institutions, partner organisations as well as the larger Singapore society. Two awards have been given annually since 1990; the Jasa Cemerlang and Jasa Bakti.



CONGRATULATIONS

The Muis Awards is a manifestation of the symbiosis between the community and Muis.

Congratulations to our Muis Award winners. They have led the way and are indeed shining role models for us all as we continue to build our community of success.

May they inspire the community to progress together.

Kadir Maideen,
Chief Executive, Muis



JASA CEMERLANG

The Jasa Cemerlang Award is conferred to individuals who have served a minimum of twelve continuous years of service and have made outstanding and distinctive contributions in the field of education, economics, community service or dakwah.



JASA CEMERLANG RECIPIENT

DR AB RAZAK CHANBASHA, PBM

Dr Abdul Razak Chanbasha, PBM, has been devoting 40 years of service in various community and national organisations. These include being in Darul Arqam, AMP and Muis. He has also been appointed as a Justice of Peace¹ in 2018, a term he will serve for five years.

Dr Razak's chief contributions are towards uplifting the community's intellectual thought and educational upliftment. This is evident in Darul Arqam where he was an Associate and Managing Editor of its publication called "The Muslim Reader" from 1984 to 1987 (he left Darul Arqam to pursue his further studies). Here, he oversaw the content on contemporary issues and affairs from the Islamic perspective. Meanwhile in AMP, where he formed in 1991 with a group of activists, he was their Chairman of the Mercuri Board (the education wing). While in RIMA, he has overseen several research projects on the educational upliftment of Malay / Muslim students and socio-economic issues affecting their educational performance. Most recently this year, he has also authored a book called "Indian Muslims in Singapore: History, Heritage and Contributions", which was launched by President Halimah Yacob. Dr Razak hopes the book can be a starting point for more research into the Indian Muslim community.

Dr Razak's key contributions at the national level are in Muis (2007 - 2019) and its subsidiary, Warees Investments Pte Ltd (2017 - present). In Muis, he was a four-term Council member where he provides input to the policies and plans for the Muslim community in its socio-religious affairs. In Warees, Dr Razak's experience in Muis' Tender Evaluation Committee guides them in the procurement works for projects under the Wakaf Revitalisation Scheme. One such project is Wakaf Bencoolen where upon completion, Masjid Bencoolen will see a revamped prayer space, installation of various accessibility features, and a new 4-storey commercial podium.

In Warees, Dr Razak was also instrumental in the formation of its first Remuneration Sub-Committee of Warees. Here, he helped to review the remuneration policies and guide the management team on key remuneration decisions which continue to make Warees very competitive and able to attract prospective staff. This has also helped to take care of current staff welfare and ensure parity in the job market.

Dr Razak is also known to be soft-spoken and approachable. Being a respected community leader, Dr Razak has stepped forward and assisted Warees in engaging key leaders within the Indian Muslim community on new Wakaf developments such as the Mosque Street project. Dr Razak has also often asked Warees to question the status quo so that the business decisions made are holistic, with different difficult scenarios being considered for the community and the wakaf at large. Such a thought process is vital for Warees as it forms good precedence for future decision-making.



JASA BAKTI

The Jasa Bakti Award is conferred to individuals who have served a minimum of eight continuous years of service, and have made outstanding and distinctive contributions in the field of education, economics, community service or dakwah.

MR ALWI BIN ABDUL HAFIZ, PBM

MR KOTHARI SHAH S/O IBRAHIM

MDM SITI HABIBAH BTE SIRAJ

HJ SUPKI BIN SIDEK

USTAZ FADLON BIN OSMAN

DR SUBARI BIN SUKAINI

HJH NORLIZAH BTE YUSOF

MR MOHAMED ILYAS



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

MR ALWI BIN ABDUL HAFIZ

Mr Alwi's significant service to the community spans across more than 20 years and he is involved in various community organisations lending his contributions in governance, as well as paving the way for youths towards furthering their education.

Mr Alwi first started volunteering in AMP, where he served as a Board of Director from 1998 to 2007. Here, he provides inputs on how AMP can better improve their service to families, working professionals and youths. However, it is in Mendaki where his contributions are lengthier in service and diverse.

Mr Alwi has been serving in Mendaki's Board of Directors since 2004. During that time, he has taken on various roles. In terms of governance, Mr Alwi has led Mendaki's Audit Committee for 16 years. In terms of ensuring better service technology, Mr Alwi was the chairman of Mendaki's IT advisory committee where he led the team to chart YM's 5-year digitalisation roadmap, which has enabled Mendaki's beneficiaries to register online for its tuition scheme and Tertiary Tuition Fee Subsidy.

Mr Alwi's contributions in Mendaki are also towards ensuring that the Muslim community has access and opportunities to excel in education. For instance, he has contributed to the effective management and distribution of the Malay Muslim Community Development Fund (MMCDF). He has also directed efforts to raise funds for the Education Trust Fund (ETF), a programme aimed at supporting Muslim low-income students with their education. He also has been serving in the Anugerah Belia Cemerlang Committee from 2015. This is where he is part of the team which provides advice and awards Muslim students to excel in their tertiary studies in non-academic fields (e.g. sports, arts and design).

Beyond Mendaki, Mr Alwi contributes in other non-profit organisations. He currently serves in Mercy Relief's Board of Director (since July 2017) where he provides guidance and oversight on their projects and operations. He is also serving in the Malay Heritage Foundations' Board of Director since 2017, where he is the Co-Chairman of the Finance and Investment Sub-Committee. His vast experience and network in the areas of finance and wealth management, as well as risk management has been instrumental in guiding MHF to meet its investment goals. MHF's diverse investment portfolio has continued to grow and strengthen under his leadership, providing stability and sustainability to MHF's source of funding.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

MR KOTHARI SHAH S/O IBRAHIM

Mr Kothari Shah's voluntary service to the community spans across 25 years in Indian Muslim organisations and in the grassroots with the Indian Activity Executive Committee at Kim Seng Community Club.

Mr Kothari Shah first started with the United Indian Muslim Association (UIMA) where he joined as a volunteer in 1996. Over the years, he has assumed various posts such as its General Secretary and Treasurer and he is now its UIMA's Vice-chairman. His key contributions in UIMA vary from welfare to education. He has helped to form volunteering groups to serve monthly supplies to the needy families in rental flats and being in the committee which disburses student bursaries.

In SKML, where he has been serving since 2006, his key contributions are also towards providing education and welfare. For example, Mr Kothari Shah is in SKML's madrasah sub-committee where he has supervised their weekend madrasah classes in Masjid Jamek Queenstown, Masjid Al-Amin and the Darul Quran in SKML premises. During the Covid-19 period where there were physical restrictions, he helped to organise online classes to benefit those who require basic Islamic knowledge. In SKML, he also was a keen ambassador of a healthy lifestyle as he participates enthusiastically in their monthly brisk walk sessions which started in 2017.

Mr Kothari Shah is also known to galvanise volunteer-members to participate in community events. For example, he encouraged the affiliates in FIM to collaborate in charity work, and during Hari Raya, they were involved in distribution rice and vouchers. For this initiative, SINDA had also participated. Another example of him mobilising volunteers is in the grassroots where Mr Kothari Shah assists in promoting programmes where various ethnic groups can participate under Kim Seng CC.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

MDM SITI HABIBAH BTE SIRAJ

Mdm Siti Habibah's voluntary contributions are largely in social welfare through PPIS (Singapore Muslim Women's Association) and its subsidiaries. She also contributed to the culture and heritage sector through the Malay Heritage Foundation. Her service has spanned more than 20 years.

Mdm Siti Habibah's contribution in PPIS is significant. She first joined as a Board Member in 2008 before becoming its Vice President 1 in 2014. Under her leadership, two centres within PPIS were formed. The first centre is Vista Sakina, a centre with specialised programmes and services to nurture step-families towards harmony, tranquility, and stability. The second centre is called Oasis Fostering Agency, a centre which administers care and support for foster children and enables one to register to be a foster parent. Oasis' recognition is highlighted as it is the third fostering agency appointed by the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Mdm Siti Habibah is also a Founding Chair 7oaks Pte Ltd a subsidiary under PPIS which administers its preschool and student care services. Under her leadership, 7oaks achieved SPARK accreditation. This recognition contributed to an increase in enrolment which in turn has ensured a stable and viable revenue stream for PPIS to provide quality yet affordable preschool education for families.

Mdm Siti Habibah also sits in the Advisory Committee for PPIS' Rise Above Halfway House and was integral in its renovation works. Her keen eye for design and functionality has contributed to a residential facility that is both therapeutic and dignified for incoming female residents. This is important as the environment, along with the halfway house's services and programmes, are specifically designed to generate safe spaces for women offenders to build their human and social capital and promote desistance.

Mdm Siti Habibah's other contribution was in the culture and heritage sector through the Malay Heritage Foundation where she was a Board of Director member from 1999 to 2019. Here, apart from helping to oversee the Malay Heritage Centre's programme and outreach, she lent her experience and knowledge for MHC to be renovated in 2011, which led it to be gazetted as a National Monument in 2015. She also helped to oversee the restoration and conservation of two historic buildings to the Malay community - Istana Kampong Gelam (MHC now) and Gedung Kuning.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

HAJI SUPKI BIN SIDEK

Hj Supki Bin Sidek has been a long-serving volunteer with close to 50 years of service. He started his service in the mosque (Masjid Mujahidin), where he continues till today (Masjid Kampung Siglap) and he has also been involved in a community organisation (LBKM) and the grassroots.

Hj Supki's contribution in the mosque sector began at Masjid Mujahidin from 1975 to 1985 where he was part of its Education Committee. This was where he designed, organised and monitored the mosque's educational programmes. As a Mosque Management Board member in Masjid Kampung Siglap, where his stint started in 2004, he was instrumental in establishing the Darul Quran there. Its key objective is to provide a venue for local Muslims to memorise and learn Al-Quran.

The Darul Quran was officially established in 1999. Hj Supki played another instrumental part here as he developed its curriculum, especially its tahfiz (Quran memorisation) programme and the training programmes for the teachers. Hj Supki also trained and monitored the Darul Quran officers and teachers in curriculum planning, teaching methods and assessment to enable them to run the programme effectively. His other key contribution was to develop the Quran Teachers Recognition Scheme (QTRS) (now called Asatizah Recognition Tier 2) where it serves to recognise those who are qualified to teach Quranic lessons in Singapore. Hj Supki's contribution here is immense as Darul Quran continues to offer these programmes to this day.

Hj Supki's other major contributions are in community organisations. The first is in LBKM where he was its Honorary Secretary and he had also sat in its Board of Trustees for scholarships (from 2000 to 2020). Here, amongst his role was to ensure that the financial assistance was given to the students. In LBKM, he has often offered new ideas for LBKM to provide new products to support our children's education and the importance of showcasing our potential students with merits in their education. The second is his role as an IRCC member in Joo Chiat where he is part of the Committee which promotes racial and religious harmony, and bridges faith and ethnic communities to better understand each other and build trust and friendship.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

USTAZ FADLON BIN OSMAN

Ustaz Fadlon Bin Osman is a committed and self-driven volunteer who has been serving for more than 20 years as a religious counsellor, where he guides offenders, ex-offenders and their families.

Ustaz Fadlon is currently a Senior Counsellor at the Muslim Counselling Services in Singapore, where he started in 1999. Over the years, his work in prison has spread across all categories of inmates from penal offenders, juvenile offenders, and drug abusers. He currently provides counselling to long-sentence inmates at one of the Specialised Correctional Units, where they will be those who await execution. Ustaz Fadlon's contribution here is immense and cannot be understated as he provides a listening ear and emotional support to inmates who are uncertain of when their execution day is. In this time, he provides much-needed guidance to ensure that the inmates are ready and at peace.

In 2010, Ustaz Fadlon was among the team which was responsible in designing and delivering the Pergas-led Muslim Intensive Life Skills Program (MILSP). This was an in-care programme which ran for two batches and had benefitted about 70 inmates. Ustaz's contribution goes beyond incare as he goes the extra mile in guiding inmates upon their release. Till today, he conducts regular classes at Masjid Khalid for ex-offenders. In recognition of his dedication and commitment to the volunteer work in prison, Ustaz Fadlon has been presented the Singapore Prison Services' 15-year service award and the Minister for Home Affairs' award.

Beyond volunteering in prison, Ustaz Fadlon has also shown his nurturing and caring side in these two examples. The first is when he groomed three students to receive their Asatizah Recognition Scheme. Two of them are now in Tier 2 while the other is in Tier 1. Another example is when he started a social programme under the Muslim Counselling Service called Yakin, Sabar Istiqamah (YSI) in 2016 with two former offenders who are now asatizah. Here, Ustaz Fadlon leads humanitarian expeditions which include those overseas. For instance, for Hari Raya Aidiladha this year, he has led a qurban and humanitarian expedition in Cambodia, where gifts were handed for kids, donations were made for the development of madrasahs and villages, and water pumps were installed for agriculture and basic needs.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

DR SUBARI BIN SUKAINI

Dr Subari Sukaini's community service is in the mosque sector and in the literary scene. He began volunteering in his youth in 1960s when he served in the committee for Surau Abu Kasim in Pasir Panjang. He started volunteering for Masjid Almukminin in 2002 and is currently its Vice-Chairman.

Prior to being Vice-Chairman, Dr Subari had performed various posts including key ones such as being its treasurer. In this role, he was instrumental in ensuring a proper and efficient system was established for human resource management and financial governance. He adopted the Employment Act as a basis and had also applied his experience and knowledge working in the financial department of a statutory board.

Dr Subari had also played a chief role in the mosque's fundraising campaign when it underwent its upgrading works. The mosque required \$6m to build a new extension, a new auditorium, several classrooms and a lift for possible prayer spaces, Islamic learning for students and ease of movement. Under Dr Subari's leadership, the mosque introduced then-novel initiatives to fundraise. These included enabling Jemaah and the public to buy \$5 for a brick (which will be used for upgrading) and infaq emas, thereby contributing their sense of ownership and empowering for wakaf. In total, \$7m was raised, leaving a surplus of about \$1m which the mosque has to date.

Dr Subari is also very active in writing for the Malay community in Singapore. He is currently Head 2 under Asas 50 (Angkatan Sasterawan 50) (Writers' Movement '50), an association which currently works to promote and propagate Malay literature through seminars, workshops, and dialogues. Dr Subari has been volunteering there since 2009.

Dr Subari has also founded "Kelab Ilham Pustaka", which is a monthly Malay reading club, in 2017. It is for adults and writers to discuss one or two local books and share their experiences as writers. The club is based at Woodlands Regional Library. Dr Subari has also written several Malay books, and his two most recent ones are, "Otak, Hati & Topeng (Himpunan Cerpen)," in 2018 and "Tiada Lagi Kantung Berbunyi" in 2021. Using his expertise in writing, Dr Subari has contributed for Masjid Almukminin's magazine publications as an editor.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

HAJJAH NORLIZAH BTE YUSOF

Hajjah Norlizah Bte Yusof has been serving in the mosque sector and the grassroots for almost 20 years. She is currently contributing as a treasurer at Masjid Sultan, a role she has served in Masjid Al-Iman and Masjid Haji Muhammad Salleh (Geylang).

As a treasurer, Hajjah Norlizah is instrumental in strengthening the mosques' financial governance and processes. Her professional experience and knowledge as a finance personnel serves her and the mosques well in this regard. Yet, Hajjah Norlizah has contributed beyond her scope as a treasurer.

Hajjah Norlizah has been passionate in empowering women and provided platforms for them to contribute and be empowered. In this regard, she had led the Women's Wing at Masjid Al-Iman and formed a social enterprise there called "Toko Ummi". This initiative was a recycling project where pre-loved items are being collected and re-sold to the public. All proceeds from the sales were subsequently donated to the mosque's operational funds. She had also set up a Community Kitchen at Masjid Al-Iman in collaboration with the Singapore National Co-operative Foundation and Bukit Panjang CCC. The initiative had provided employment and skills development opportunities for ladies from disadvantaged families.

Hajjah Norlizah's leadership and organisational skills were also highlighted in two large-scale events. The first example was the two symposiums organised for women. Both reinforced the narrative how women could be leaders and champions of causes. Practising what she advocated, Hajjah Norlizah was also in the working committee of the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation Day in 2018 where our migrant workers and domestic helpers were invited to be our guests. This is to demonstrate our recognition and appreciation of their efforts to build Singapore through their work and sacrifice.



JASA BAKTI RECIPIENT

MR MOHAMED ILYAS

Mr Mohamed Ilyas has been a long-serving volunteer at Masjid Bencoolen (for about 20 years) where his contributions were as a Mosque Management Board (MMB) member who oversaw the mosques' renovations and fund-raising, as well as establishing a social media team.

Mr Ilyas started to volunteer in the late 1990s as a bookkeeper in accounts at Masjid Bencoolen. During its renovation works and construction of a new building between 2001 and 2004, he was the mosque's point of contact of behalf of the mosque chairman. Mr Ilyas was then appointed as an MMB member in 2004 and he was instrumental in laying the foundations for the mosque's operations in the new premise.

Mr Ilyas had also held various key appointments in the mosque such as its treasurer and secretary where his roles include ensuring that the mosque's finance, manpower and records are governed effectively and responsibly, and in accordance with the regulations set by Muis. He is also overseeing staff administration. During the Covid-19 period, where restrictions disabled physical learning of Islam, he played an important role to engage the Jemaah online. This was by ensuring that the mosque had a social media team set up to livestream sermons and bayan (religious learning) are available to the public. This effort had also reached out and engaged our Bengali-speaking migrant workers and Masjid Bencoolen continues to produce content in its social media accounts (Facebook and YouTube) till today.

Mr Ilyas is currently involved in the mosque's redevelopment project and is the main point of contact. He was involved in its fundraising team where they managed to collect the targeted amount of \$3m in two years.



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