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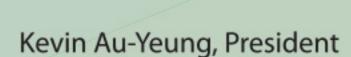


As summer is upon us once again, there is much to talk about that's happened here at ACCE since the Spring edition of Entrepreneur News.

On April 3, our Mandarin Speaking Group co-hosted a workshop with the assistance of the Markham Small Business Centre (MSBC) of the City of Markham. The workshop covered various topics, including the services and resources available through MSBC, Digital Service Squad Grant (DSSG) applications and digital marketing strategies.

Shortly thereafter, the 26th ACCE Awards Gala was held on April 15 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The Awards Gala is ACCE's premier, signature event, and this year's iteration was another tremendous success. The Gala attracted over 800 guests, including prominent political, business and community leaders. I extend heartfelt congratulations to this year's impressive group of award winners, who were chosen from an abundant pool of extremely high-calibre nominees from coast to coast. I especially wish to congratulate and acknowledge Dr. Eva Lee Kwok for being the recipient of the 2023 ACCE Lifetime Achievement Award.





We then got to know the award winners more personally at a Winners' Club dinner at Casa Victoria Fine Dining and Banquet in Markham on April 27. They joined past winners from the previous 25 award galas for an evening of great networking and sharing of insights. I wish to thank BDC for being the title sponsor of the ACCE Awards and this Winners' Club event.

I am excited to announce that six of the newly minted 2023 award winners will share their success stories and knowledge at the ACCE Business Forum on June 17 at the Markham Civic Centre. I wish to thank National Bank for being the Event Sponsor, as well as the City of Markham for being our Venue Sponsor and Supporting Partner.

Other upcoming events include the 2023 ACCE Golf Classic, to be held on June 28 at the Angus Glen Golf Club; and the 2023 ACCE West Coast Gala, to be held on October 5 at the Fairmont Waterfront in Vancouver, B.C. Please visit our website, www.acce.ca, for more details on these events, along with various networking and educational seminars.

Of course, none of these events would be possible without the support of our valued stakeholders, including our sponsors, members, volunteers, staff, various levels of government and the media. I wish to thank everyone for their continuous support.

I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at the next ACCE event.







Me work across Canada



















### Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Eva Lee Kwok, Amara Holdings Inc.

Dr. Eva Lee Kwok is an esteemed entrepreneur, business executive and investor based in Vancouver, Canada. As the Chairperson and CEO of Amara Holdings Inc. since 1992, Dr. Kwok has built a solid reputation as one of Canada's most respected business leaders in the Canadian and Asia Pacific trade sectors. Her leadership experience extends to various senior positions, including President and Managing Director of Melcorp Mercantile Incorporated, Vice-President of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, and President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology.

Dr. Kwok's academic background as a distinguished nutritionist and former faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan has also made her a trailblazer in the business world. Her entrepreneurial spirit led her to found Amara Holdings, and she serves on the Boards of Directors of several organizations, including the British Columbia Women's Hospital & Health Centre, the Vancouver General

Hospital Foundation and the British Columbia Progress Board. Dr. Kwok has been on a total of 16 corporate boards across various sectors, currently still serving on five, including those of Cenovus Energy, Cheung Kong Infrastructure (CKI), Cheung Kong Life Sciences (CKLS), Cheung Kong Asset Holdings (CK Asset Holdings) and Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation.

Her previous corporate board positions include those at Telesystems International Wireless (TIW), Wascana Energy, AT&T Canada Long Distance Services, Scott Paper Canada, Coca-Cola Beverages, Mutual Life, Clarica Life Insurance Company, Fletcher Challenge Canada, Husky Energy, BMO Bank of Montreal, Vancouver Board of Trade, Air Canada and Shoppers Drug Mart.

Dr. Kwok's commitment to excellence and innovation has earned her unwavering respect and admiration in the business world. She is an inspirational role model for women in business and has significantly contributed to promoting diversity and inclusion in corporate leadership.



Tyson Jones, Regional Vice President, Commercial Financial Services, RBC Royal Bank, presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Eva Lee Kwok, Amara Holdings Inc.

## Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Saylo Lam, Circle 5



Daniel Liberman, Senior Manager, Commercial Banking, TD, presented the Entrepreneur of the Year Award to Saylo Lam, Circle 5. Saylo Lam has built a successful career over 35 years, making Circle 5 a leader in the manufacturing and prototyping industry. The company has become a world-class supplier of injection molded solutions, serving both the automotive and non-automotive industries. Circle 5's ability to machine ferrous and nonferrous metals, combined with state-of-the-art, multi-axis CNC and EDM capabilities, sets it apart from competitors.

As general and quality systems manager, Lam led Circle 5 to commit to maintaining the highest level of quality and excellence, resulting in a loyal customer base. Today, Circle 5 provides products for some of the most popular vehicle models, such as the Tesla Model 3, Tesla Model S Plaid, Ford F-150, Ram truck, Cadillac Escalade and BMW.

In the past four years, Circle 5's growth rate has increased by over 12%, and it employs over 650 technical associates worldwide.

In addition, Saylo Lam is an active member of the Essex County Chinese Canadian Association and a supporter of organizations such as the Windsor Goodfellows Club, Brentwood Recovery Home, Pelatonia Cancer Research and World Vision.

Lam believes in giving back to the community and growing the company in a sustainable way. Circle 5's commitment to quality, customer service and community engagement has led to its success and Lam's reputation as a leader in the industry.

#### **Best International Business Award**

Ricky Lau, Alan Poon, Richard Fung, Ron Chan and Eric Ng, The Six Semiconductor Inc.

In 2018, The Six Semiconductor Inc. (TSS) was founded by five entrepreneurial men with a vision of becoming the industry leader in memory subsystem physical layer (PHY) IP providers for high-speed electrical communication. The co-founders – Richard Fung, CEO; Ricky Lau, CTO; Ron Chan, COO; Alan Poon, VP of Engineering; and Eric Ng, Chief Scientist – met while working at ATI Technologies Inc. 20 years ago, and they developed expertise in the development of double data rate (DDR) PHY IPs.

TSS was acquired by OPENEDGES Technology in December 2019, becoming its first overseas subsidiary.

In 2022, OPENEDGES went public on the Korean KRX market. Today, TSS operates independently in Markham, Ontario, as part of a public technology company. As a crucial component in the memory subsystem, TSS's DDR PHY is responsible for high-speed electrical communication between the host processor and the dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) devices. With its unique silicon IP market position and expertise in analog mixed-signal integrated circuit design, TSS is growing to meet the demands of the semiconductor market, including business opportunities in China, South Korea, Japan, the United States and Europe.



Rocky Lo, Senior Director, Asia Revenue Management and Sales, Air Canada, presented the Best International Business Award to Ricky Lau, Alan Poon, Richard Fung, Ron Chan and Eric Ng, The Six Semiconductor Inc.



Emily Mo, Director, Hong Kong Economic Trade Office in Toronto, presented the Best Asia Pacific Business Award to Benson Lau, Fuwa Fuwa.

## Best Asia Pacific Business Award

Benson Lau, Fuwa Fuwa

Fuwa Fuwa is a fast-growing dessert chain that has taken the world by storm with its gourmet flapjacks, croffles and jiggly souffle pancakes. Benson Lau, the owner and creator of the brand, has garnered rich management experience and food management skills in China's and North America's domestic high-end shopping malls and food catering industry, providing him with a solid foundation on which to build the brand internationally.

Fuwa Fuwa uses the freshest ingredients in its luxurious desserts and provides superior customer service, along with its open kitchen concept, which lets customers see

how their food is made. The brand's exceptional food quality and service have made it the winner of Toronto's Top Stack. With its headquarters in Hong Kong, Fuwa Fuwa has expanded in just four years to over 20 locations worldwide, in China, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, becoming one of the most recognizable dessert chains in North America. Benson Lau aims to continue growing the brand internationally, with plans to establish more connections in the food and beverage industry and expand to Paris, London and Guangdong province in China.

Lau's strong business acumen, perseverance and dedication to building Fuwa Fuwa into an internationally known dessert brand have brought him great success.

# Young Entrepreneur Award Connie Lo, Three Ships

In 2017, Connie Lo and Laura Burget launched Three Ships, an all-natural skincare line. The company has become a pioneer in the market by creating products made entirely from natural ingredients that address common skin problems. Starting small by selling their products at local farmers markets, Three Ships quickly gained a following. Today, Three Ships has 23 skincare products and has become a well-known brand throughout North America. The company's sales in the United States are currently outpacing those in Canada, and it has plans to expand into the United Kingdom and Australia next year.

Three Ships's success can be attributed to its focus on using all-natural ingredients and creating formulas that are effective and safe for all skin types. The company's products have won numerous awards, including recognition from *Self* and *Cosmopolitan* magazines. Three Ships products can be found at popular retailers such as Hudson's Bay, Indigo, Whole Foods and Holt Renfrew. In addition to these accolades, Lo and Burget have been recognized for their entrepreneurship, including receiving an EY Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2022 and an RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Award in 2020.



Dany Elsalibi, Vice President of Personal Banking Ontario and Merchant Relationships, National Bank of Canada, presented the Young Entrepreneur Award to Connie Lo, Three Ships.



Andrew Fung, National Sales Director, SMB Advanced, TELUS, presented the Most Innovative Award to Paul Zheng, Nurologix.

### Most Innovative Award

Paul Zheng, Nurologix

Nurologix, founded by Paul Zheng and his partners in 2015, is a contactless wellness and vital sign monitoring solution provider. Utilizing the front-facing camera on cell phones, Nurologix provides a unique solution that scans users' vital health signs in just 30 seconds from the convenience of their own homes. Zheng, a University of Toronto PhD student from China, was researching human face reactions using cell phone cameras when he realized that artificial intelligence (AI) could be used to assess vital signs from optical images.

Over four years, Nurologix developed and refined mobile and desktop applications to measure various biometrics,

including heart rate, irregular heartbeat, blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and metabolic risks. Since its launch two years ago, Nurologix has garnered worldwide acclaim from Fortune 500 companies in various industries, and it currently employs more than 70 people in Toronto, including many doctors, data scientists and engineers.

Nurologix continues to improve its artificial intelligence technology in transdermal optical imaging, maintaining its position as a global market leader. In 2021, Nurologix won Best Biometric Sensor Solution at the MedTech Breakthrough Awards and also won a Digital Health Award. With the global digital health market valued at more than \$200 billion, Nurologix is poised to continue its growth trajectory and be a major player in the industry.

## Most Progressive Award

Ed Fung, Interware Systems Inc.

Ed Fung saw the potential of cloud-based computing in the highly competitive business landscape and partnered with a cybersecurity business in 2009, leading to the establishment of Interware Systems. Since taking over as CEO, he has expanded the business, hired a team of experts, and focused on serving small and medium-sized businesses looking for cloud migration and data security solutions.

Interware's success can be attributed to its key partnerships with industry giants such as Fortinet and Microsoft, which elevate the technical service provided to clients. The company's salespeople, customer service and technical assistance experts are well-trained to offer top-notch cybersecurity solutions to customers, rectifying issues

before they escalate.

Interware has achieved significant recognition for transferring over 44 million Ontario health records, one of the largest transactions of its kind in Canada. It has successfully extracted data from 120 community health centres across different legacy systems, setting a blueprint for future success.

Ed Fung and his team are committed to providing the best cybersecurity solutions to their clients. Interware's exceptional customer service and technical expertise have earned the trust of its clients, making it a preferred partner for businesses seeking cloud-based computing and data security solutions.



Dave Ramsumair, District VP, Scotiabank, presented the Most Progressive Award to Ed Fung, Interware Systems Inc.



Carol Cheng, Assistant Marketing Manager, Ming Pao Newspapers (Canada) Ltd., presented the Best Community Service Award to Stephanie Li, Spotlight West Communications Inc.

#### **Best Community Service Award**

Stephanie Li, Spotlight West Communications Inc.

Stephanie Li is the founder and principal of Spotlight West Communications & Public Relations, a marketing agency that bridges the gap between the East and West by leveraging its knowledge of Chinese consumers to help North American brands create culturally relevant and impactful campaigns. Her agency has already worked with high-profile clients such as the Vancouver Canucks, Ford Motor Company, Bang & Olufsen and H&M.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Li also dedicates time to giving back to the community. She has launched a non-profit eyeglass project with the University of British Columbia (UBC) Faculty of Medicine to provide free eye care to marginalized residents of

Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Li is also a board member of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Chimo Community Services and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and she serves as a mentor for the UBC Arts Co-op Students' Association Mentorship Program. She is also an active member of the Vancouver Board of Trade, the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and the National Association of Asian American Professionals.

Li's commitment to helping others and her active involvement in the community are inspiring. She has made significant contributions to both the public relations industry and the betterment of society.

#### Best Start-up Award Bernard Law, Kind Laundry

Kind Laundry, a purpose-driven company, is on a mission to eliminate single-use solutions and offer innovative laundry care products that are eco-friendly and safe for sensitive skin. Its products, featuring an ingredient called tea seed oil as an anti-bacterial agent, have been making headlines since hitting the market two years ago.

Now, Kind Laundry can be found at health food chains and other national distributors across the United States, making sustainable laundry care accessible to more people than ever before. The company's commitment to sustainability is reflected in every aspect of its business operations. The brand has received recognition from

Oprah Daily and The Globe and Mail and has won a grand prize in a recent global competition.

As a result of its innovative products and dedication to making a difference in the environment, Kind Laundry has quickly become a well-known and respected brand in the laundry care industry. The company is proud to offer a sustainable way to keep clothes clean while making the planet happy. For its contributions to the environment and commitment to sustainability, Kind Laundry is a company deserving of recognition and praise.



Sharon Zhu, Market Vice President, Business Banking, CIBC, presented the Best Start-up Award to Bernard Law, Kind Laundry.



Kevin Au-Yeung, President of ACCE, and Paula Cruickshank, Senior Vice President - Ontario of BDC, gathered with the 2023 ACCE Award winners. Front row from left: Bernard Law, Kind Laundry; Paul Zheng, Nuralogix; Ed Fung, Interware Systems Inc.; Saylo Lam, Circle 5; Paula Cruickshank, BDC; Kevin Au-Yeung, ACCE; Dr. Eva Lee Kwok, Amara Holdings Inc.; Richard Fung, The Six Semiconductor Inc.; Connie Lo, Three Ships; Stephanie Li, Spotlight West Communications Inc.; and Benson Lau, Fuwa Fuwa. Back row from left: Ricky Lau, Alan Poon, Ron Chan and Eric Ng, The Six Semiconductor Inc.



All winners, sponsors, guests, volunteers and ACCE directors gathered at the 26th ACCE Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards Gala on April 15, 2023, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



ACCE President Kevin Au-Yeung (right) presented an appreciation plaque to Paula Cruickshank (left), Senior Vice President – Ontario, BDC (title sponsor), and Co-Chair of the 2023 ACCE Awards Gala.



Past ACCE award winners and dignitaries gathered at the 2023 ACCE Awards Gala.





ACCE President Kevin Au-Yeung (middle) presented cheques to charities – Carmen Chu (left) from the Sinai Health Foundation and Joan Yim (right) from Nonnina's Table.

Larry Law, President & CEO, Living Water Resorts (fourth from left), presented scholarships to students from the Schulich School of Business at York University and Seneca College.



ACCE directors and advisors gathered at the 2023 ACCE Awards Gala. Front row from left: Yvonne Chan, Ana Chan, Sandra Tam, Tina Woo, Yan Wang, Bill Chen, Kevin Au-Yeung, Irwin Li, Alan Kwong, Tina Tian, Joanna Lo, Mandy Zhang, Karen Huynh, Jessie Ma and Karen Ng. Back row from left: Andrew Au, Karen Mak, Andy Yap, Edmund Tin, Scott Lin, Alan Lo, Eric Chan, Chris Collucci, Alan Hamm, Wilbert Lai, Kit Poon, Edward Wang, Fred Lai, Amy Wong and Jeffrey Shek.

**Past Events** 



The 2023 ACCE Winners' Club reception, sponsored by BDC, was held on April 27, 2023, at the Casa Victoria Fine Dining and Banquet. Sponsors, guests, past award winners, and ACCE Board of Directors members and advisors are shown.



Keynote speaker Paula Cruickshank, Senior Vice President - Ontario, BDC, shared a strategy to help companies strengthen their business in the uncertain economic environment and help position them for the future at the 2023 ACCE Winners' Club reception.



ACCE President Kevin Au-Yeung (right) presented an appreciation certificate to Paula Cruickshank (left), BDC.







Paula Cruickshank (right), Senior Vice President - Ontario, BDC, presented the lucky draw gifts to past award winners, from left: Raymond Chik, Ben Hum and Lew Lim.



ACCE Partnership with the City of Markham to hold a Mandarin Speaking workshop on April 3, 2023, at the Markham Civic Centre. From left: Tiffany Mak, Lee Williams Boudakian, Karen Ng, Chris Rickett and Kevin Au-Yeung.



Guests attended the Mandarin Speaking workshop.

# **ACCE** in the Community



ACCE was one of the supporting organizations at the Hong Kong - Markham Tech Exchange on May 10, 2023.





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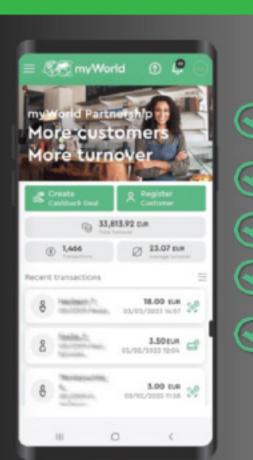
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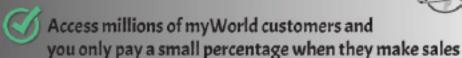
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