

Doing their bit for labour

MAY Day awards were presented to 88 individuals and company representatives last night. A special "Upturn the Downturn Awards" category was added this year to recognise the efforts of workers and companies who dealt with the recession.

Here are some of the award winners:

■ MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Mr Tay Kim Poh, 57, Housing Development Board chief executive officer:

"This is an award that I am very proud of as it attests to the close partnership forged between HDB management and the HDB Staff Union. This is a major milestone year for HDB as we celebrate 50 years of public housing in Singapore. HDB's achievements would not have been possible without our strong and progressive partner, the HDB Staff

Union. It has steadfastly partnered HDB in overcoming the various challenges in our public housing journey."

■ MEDAL OF COMMENDATION (GOLD)

Mr Tong Chong Heong, 63, Keppel Offshore chief executive officer:

"People are the backbone of our organisation. Sustained efforts in nurturing and training employees during the good and bad times have

allowed Keppel to develop and maintain a resilient and capable workforce, which drives value for our customers. We also owe our success to the win-win relationship forged with our unions over the years. Together, we have worked hand-in-hand through some of the most challenging economic situations to help the company save costs and stay competitive, while ensuring the welfare of our employees."

■ MEDAL OF COMMENDATION (GOLD)

Professor Tan Ser Kiat, 64, Singapore Health Services group chief executive officer:

"The recent economic downturn and the Sars outbreak in 2003 taught us that such challenges and threats can be surmounted easily if management and staff work together as a cohesive team. I believe that the strong relationship we have with the union helped us weather these storms and forged an even stronger bond which is critical for any future challenges for which we must be

prepared."

■ MEDAL OF COMMENDATION (GOLD)

Mr Kua Hong Pak, ComfortDelGro managing director and group chief executive officer:

"ComfortDelGro is what we are today because of our people. Without them, our journey thus far would not have been possible. I owe it to them to help in any way I can to improve their lives... I actually don't think I did anything that was really out of the ordinary. More importantly, everything that ComfortDelGro has done for our people has been done by the Group as a whole, not by me as an individual. So while I am very honoured, I feel that the award should rightly go to our people."

■ PLAQUE OF COMMENDATION (STAR)

PUB water agency:

"Winning the award will put both PUB Employees' Union and PUB in good stead as we enter the next decade to

face new challenges, such as those spelt out by the Economic Strategies Committee to enhancing skills and capabilities, growing innovation and improving productivity.

- Mr Lawrence Tan, PUB's human resources director

■ PLAQUE OF COMMENDATION (STAR)

Japanese disk-drive maker Murata Electronics:

"Going forward, we will work closely with the union, the e2i, and other relevant government agencies to prepare our employees for further skills development. Also, through more innovative improvements, we aim to boost our productivity and ready ourselves for the changing environment such as the impact from foreign worker levy increase."

- Mr Ng Mau Heng, Murata's general manager for administration and management system, on how the award will spur the firm

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