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Top May Day award winner

By Kor Kian Beng

RECEIVING the top May Day award this year propelled former labour minister of state **Goh Chee Wee** back to 1981 and his first project on joining the labour movement.

He was part of a team a top NTUC leaders in the thick of a high-profile dispute between the pilots and management of Singapore Airlines. It was a 'good learning experience' that stood him in good stead in his almost 20 years of labour-related work, he told The Straits Times.

Mr Goh, 63, chairman of NTUC First Campus Co-operative, with veteran lawyer David Wong Chin Huat, 61, a director of the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF), head the list of 88 recipients of May Day Awards this year.

Both received the **prestigious Distinguished Service (Star) awards** on Thursday at a May Day dinner. The award is given to non-unionists who have made significant contributions to the labour movement. Only four others have received it since 2001.

The National Trades Union Congress (NTUC), which nominated them, said Mr Goh 'took pains to expand NTUC FairPrice, NTUC Foodfare and NTUC Media to where it is today'.

Mr Wong, chairman of One Marina Boulevard (OMB) which houses NTUC Centre, was credited for helping to level the social divide between rich and poor, and improving workers' employability by placing all service contracts at OMB under a best-sourcing framework.