**Minister Gan Kim Yong Reaffirms the Vitality of UK-Singapore Trade at the British Chamber of Commerce's 25th Annual Business Awards**

**Friday, October 11, 2024:** The British Chamber of Commerce Singapore celebrated a milestone evening as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Gan Kim Yong, addressed the significance of the UK-Singapore trade relationship at the 25th Annual Business Awards. The event not only marked a quarter-century of recognizing business excellence but also commemorated the Chamber’s 70th anniversary, highlighting the enduring partnership between the UK and Singapore.

In his speech, Minister Gan underscored the robust economic ties that bind the two nations. “Last year, Singapore and the United Kingdom elevated our bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership,” he noted, emphasizing the growth in trade, which more than doubled over the past decade to exceed S$38 billion. The UK remains Singapore’s largest services trading partner in Europe, while Singapore constitutes 40% of the UK’s trade with Southeast Asia.

Minister Gan pointed to key areas of collaboration that have bolstered this relationship, such as the UK-Singapore Green Economy Framework and the Digital Economy Agreement, which open new avenues for cooperation in emerging fields like AI, digital trade, and sustainability. “Our shared commitment to free trade and a rules-based global economy is crucial in today’s turbulent economic environment,” he stated, calling for deeper business links to navigate the evolving global trade landscape.

The awards ceremony shone a spotlight on exceptional business achievements. The accolade of Employer of the Year was awarded to Standard Chartered, with Lloyd’s receiving a Highly Commended distinction. Other notable winners included Premier Group for Small Business Impact, and Mott MacDonald, which took home the Diversity & Inclusion Champion and UK Impact in Singapore awards.

Haslam Preeston, President of the British Chamber of Commerce Singapore, reflected on the evening’s significance: "Tonight, we honour not only the outstanding achievements of businesses but also the strength of the UK-Singapore trade relationship, built on shared values, innovation, and a commitment to growth. The finalists and winners represent the very best of what can be achieved when we collaborate with purpose and vision.”​

As Singapore and the UK look to the future, the British Chamber remains committed to fostering a dynamic and resilient business ecosystem. The awards highlighted the role businesses play in driving progress, especially in key areas like sustainability and technological innovation.

Minister Gan’s speech concluded with a call to action for businesses to leverage Singapore and the UK’s hub statuses to drive trade and investments across Asia and Europe. “Together, we can build a more dynamic, innovative, sustainable, and resilient economy.”

**Award Winners**

Employer of the Year: Standard Chartered (Highly Commended: Lloyd's)

Small Business Impact of the Year: Premier Group (Highly Commended: Canvas8)

Diversity & Inclusion Champion: Mott MacDonald (Highly Commended: Standard Chartered)

Technological Impact of the Year: Singapore Aero Engine Services Private Limited (Highly Commended: Veracity Trust Network)

Sustainability Champion of the Year: Standard Chartered (Highly Commended: Dulwich College (Singapore))

Customer Service Provider of the Year: Singlife (Highly Commended: Ethos BeathChapman)

Individual Contribution: Nick Magnus MBE – Dulwich College (Singapore) (Highly Commended: Elsie Choo - BT Group)

Business Transformation of the Year: Spark Systems Pte Ltd

UK Impact in Singapore: Mott MacDonald

Future Leader of the Year: Kiran Prabakaran – BT Group

**END**

**Note to the Editor:**

**About the British Chamber of Commerce Singapore (BritCham):**

The British Chamber of Commerce Singapore (BritCham) is an independent not-for-profit membership organisation supporting approximately 3,500 members from 300 member organisations, part of the British Chambers of Commerce Global Network and a leading member of the Britain in South East Asia network (BiSEA). Our members vary from startups and SMEs to global MNCs, spanning all sectors and industries. Approximately two-thirds of the network in Singapore are British nationals or those employed by an organisation headquartered in the UK.

The Chamber is a registered Society, led by an [Executive Team](https://www.britcham.org.sg/management-team), overseen by an [elected Board](https://www.britcham.org.sg/board-members) of members and operating under a published [Constitution](https://www.britcham.org.sg/constitution). Our mission is to drive British business growth in Singapore, create opportunities for our members, facilitate industry knowledge sharing, and support exporters from the UK. This is achieved by working alongside Government, our partners and our engaged members to deliver services, committee participation, activities and opportunities throughout the year.

Within our services to the British business community, we focus on five broad themes - the [Future of Trade](https://futureoftrade.britcham.org.sg) (creating jobs and boosting economic growth in Singapore), the [Future of Work](https://futureofwork.britcham.org.sg) (supporting talent and the enhancement of people to support business growth), [Diversity & Inclusion](https://diversity.britcham.org.sg) (ensuring that rich and diverse workforces are working together to support business innovation and growth), [Education & Learning](http://education.britcham.org.sg) (focusing on quality education and future skills that businesses will require), and sustainability through our [Road to Net Zero campaign](http://netzero.britcham.org.sg) (encouraging businesses to do their part for a world that we all want to live in in the future). We also maintain a [Covid-19 Information Hub](http://covid.britcham.org.sg) resource.

For more information on the Chamber, our advocacy and our areas of focus, visit [www.britcham.org.sg](http://www.britcham.org.sg).

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