

Headline	Leonard Chua gets recognised for true grit after traumatic accident		
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Leonard Chua gets recognised for true grit after traumatic accident

PETALING JAYA: Leonard Chua Tze Yeu, a man who technically died twice from two cardiac arrests lasting 10 and two minutes, respectively, following a traumatic motor accident in 2005, was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Malaysians (TOYM) for 2011 by the Junior Chamber International Malaysia (JCIM) here Friday night.

Chua, 31, born in England and raised in Melaka, received the award from Pandan MP Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat who was the guest-of-honour at the annual awards ceremony aimed at identifying outstanding young Malaysians for the honours in the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World Programme under the auspices of the Junior Chamber International having its headquarters in Missouri, USA.

A former steward with Malaysia Airlines but now heading his own company, Beyond Rehab Enterprises, which specialises in producing and marketing equipment for the disabled, Chua was full of emotion after receiving his award under the "Personal Improvement or Accomplishment" category as he paid tribute to his parents and friends for their support as well as the personnel at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre who had kept him alive.

Saying that though he was getting weaker by the day, Chua, whose

hand movements had been affected by the spinal chord injuries in the accident just after Jalan Syed Putra near the Federal Highway, said he would live every minute of his life to contribute to society.

Chua, who was honoured for his grit and determination despite facing many obstacles, said: "I went through hard times when my lights were dimmed and the curtains were shutting down. I was drowning in the dark alley of death. But there was an anonymous person who brought me light, pulled me out of the darkness and inspired me to live on to save lives. Now, it is my turn to bring hope to people when they are drowning in darkness."

Another recipient under the same category was Sia Ling Ling from Sungai Rambai, Melaka, who had established the Malaysia Disabled Parents with Disabilities Association to seek better family lives for the children of disabled parents.

Prof Dr Kee Keh Kooi, who described himself as "a kampung boy from Perak" who had gone into the world of biological sciences and was an award winner under the "Scientific and Technological Development" category, said cases like Chua and Sia would spur him on to continue his research in stem cells at the Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Kluang-born Norlina Alawi, who

single-handedly manages a home for about 50 HIV-positive children in Ampang, Selangor, under the name of "*Keluarga Besar Norlina Alawi*", was an award recipient in the "Contribution to Children" category.

Singer Penny Tai from Segamat, Johor, who has carved a name for herself in the Mandarin pop world, especially in Taiwan, and Kuching-born Film Director Bjarne Wong Kai Hung, who has worked in a number of Jackie Chan movies and local production "*Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa*", were winners in the "Cultural Achievement" category.

Other winners include Michel Yee Yoke Cheng, CEO of Yee Hup Food Holdings Sdn Bhd in Ipoh, and Chong Min Hee from Pandamaran, Klang, and Managing Director of construction-based Tanjong Mahsuri Sdn Bhd, in the "Business, Economic and Entrepreneurial Accomplishment" category.

Penang-born Datuk Dennis Chuah, CEO of Eclimo Sdn Bhd which makes electric motorcycles and scooters, won in the "Environmental Leadership" category while social worker and motivator Lim Joon Seong from Klang was awarded for his "Humanitarian and Voluntary Leadership" at the awards ceremony organised by Junior Chamber International Kuala Lumpur Mandarin (JCIKLM).

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