

■ SPECIAL REPORT ■

OVERVIEW



A toast at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 China Awards in Shanghai. The prestigious awards programme identifies and rewards successful leaders of dynamic companies. Many winners have gone on to be household names in their sectors.

RISING TO THE OCCASION

Innovative entrepreneurs show they can adapt to the changes presented by the new business environment in China. Reports by **CHRIS DAVIS**

As China's central government steers the country's economic development towards a more sustainable, higher quality growth model, entrepreneurship and the innovation of ideas have been highlighted as key value generating contributors for driving new technologies, products and processes and expanding domestic consumption.

Albert Ng, EY's China chairman and Greater China managing partner, says as China's economic reforms focus on the optimisation of technologies and upgrading industry sectors, innovative entrepreneurs are demonstrating they are more than capable of adapting to the changes presented by the new business environment.

"This transition presents numerous opportunities and huge market potential for Chinese entrepreneurs to achieve new developments and



Albert Ng



breakthroughs," Ng says. Along with the shifting of China's economic growth engine, structural reform involves transformation of traditional sectors and development of new innovation drivers, which are priorities for entrepreneurs. Ng says this was evident among the winners who participated in the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 China (EOY) awards programme. Under the theme "seizing opportunity, leading change," Ng says entrepreneurs have identified opportunities to enable strategic growth and along the way, have overcome considerable challenges. "They have embraced the entrepreneurial spirit that drives the development of enterprises that benefit the economy and society."

Since their launch in China in 2006, the EY awards have given recognition to entrepreneurs based on the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, while also offering a platform for their achievements to be showcased to global audiences.

Now in its 11th year in China, Ng says the EOY is a prestigious awards programme that identifies and rewards successful leaders of dynamic companies. Many of the previous winners have become recognised as some of the most influential companies in their sectors, led by entrepreneurs who have become household names.

This year the EY China awards have been made across categories such as technology, industrial products, media and entertainment, pharmaceutical and life sciences, clean-tech and services. Ng says by focusing on creating customer value, category winners have improved the quality of their products and services. "The participants have shown through the use of their innovative competencies they have opened up prospects for new business models and advanced quality and innovations in emerging industries," Ng says.

At the same time, entrepreneurs are using opportunities presented by the expansion of technologies and the internet to achieve market leadership positions. "Innovations in technology, business models and management kept widening the economic horizon in previously unimaginable ways," Ng says. "With these efforts already paying off we are convinced that the entrepreneurial spirit will grow even stronger and more Chinese entrepreneurs will



Girish Jhunjhnuwala, founder and CEO of Ovolo Group (middle), was honoured as EOY 2016 China Country Winner for Hong Kong/Macau Region.

become global business leaders," Ng says, adding that as part of EY's commitment towards building a better working world, the firm is pleased to assist exceptional Chinese entrepreneurs to achieve greater success.

Recognised as the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs, the EOY awards programme encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognises the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement.

Winners are selected through regional, national and global awards programmes in more than 145 cities in excess of 60 countries. The judging criteria conform to a single standard adopted by all EOY programmes. The judging criteria include entrepreneurial spirit, financial performance, strategic direction, national or global impact, innovation, and personal integrity and influence. The overall winner is chosen by an independent judging panel of

former EY EOY winners and other entrepreneurs. Of the 12 winners, Li Ruigang, chairman of CMC Group, was honoured as EOY 2016 China Country Winner

for mainland China; and Girish Jhunjhnuwala, founder and CEO of Ovolo Group, was honoured as EOY 2016 China Country Winner for

Hong Kong and Macau. They will represent mainland China and Hong Kong/Macau at the World Entrepreneur of the Year (WEYO) Award in June 2017.



Li Ruigang, chairman of CMC Group (middle), landed the EOY 2016 China Country Winner for the mainland China region.

WHAT THE CO-CHAIRMAN SAY

Opportunities are being created for pioneering entrepreneurs to shine



Michael Bi

As technological advances and strategic market growth adjustments become major drivers of China's large-scale economic transformation, there are more opportunities for pioneering entrepreneurs to upgrade products and services and make breakthroughs in existing and new industries, according to Michael Bi and C.K. Lai, co-chairmen of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) 2016 China programme.

The co-chairmen note that under China's "new normal", the process of rebalancing the economy towards technological innovation and domestic consumer spending, platforms are being created for innovating entrepreneurs to launch new businesses and pilot them in different markets.

While the challenges that economic transformation create cannot be overlooked, the co-chairmen believe China's growing culture of

entrepreneurship can help to create more jobs, stimulate consumption and promote vertical social mobility.

The duo expect to see new concepts emerging in industrialisation, information connectivity, and digitalisation urbanisation and agricultural modernisation, each adding vigour and creativity to the market. Furthermore, opportunities generated by the Made in China 2025 initiative and the China-led one belt, one road, referring to initiatives to build a Silk Road economic belt and a 21st century Maritime Silk Road, provide support to grow China's economy, and increase the opportunities for entrepreneurial endeavours inside and outside China.

According to the co-chairmen, the theme for this year's EOY programme, "seizing opportunity to drive reform and innovation", corresponds with the opportunities and challenges brought about by economic transformation.

The theme acknowledges the contributions made by entrepreneurs in promoting social and economic development.

To boost entrepreneurship and innovation, the central government has emphasised the need to intensify structural reform, and increase efforts to expand innovation-driven development.

Government bodies are optimising their financial policies to support mass entrepreneurship and innovation. The action plan involves universities and scientific research institutions which are cultivating a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Universities and scientific research institutions are being encouraged to inspire talent to channel technological advances into industrial and economic advantages and promote the transformation of sci-tech achievements.

Now in its 11th year, the co-

chairmen point out that since 2006, when the EOY programme launched in China, the theme has focused on opportunities and challenges influenced by the Chinese economy.

Meanwhile, as the EOY China programme enters its second decade, the co-chairmen say EY remains committed to recognising the achievements and efforts of enterprising entrepreneurs as they scale new heights and make invaluable contributions to China's economic and social development.

"The EOY programme always focuses on recognising the most enterprising Chinese entrepreneurs," the co-chairmen say.

As Chinese entrepreneurs increasingly take their place on the domestic and international global stage, EY takes pride in recognising the achievements of entrepreneurs and their relentless drive to achieve their goals.



C.K. Lai



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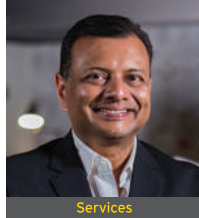
Congratulations to the winners of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2016 China awards



Industrial Products

Chen Yin

Changzhou Greenwork Co., Ltd.
Founder



Services

Girish Jhunjhnuwala

Ovolo Group
Founder and Chief Executive Officer



Media & Entertainment

Li Ruigang

CMC Group
Chairman



Industrial Products

Li Xuechun

Fufeng Group Limited
Chairman



Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences

Li Zhijiang

AK Medical Holdings Limited
Chairman and Founder



Technology

Lap Man

DYXnet Group
Founder and CEO



Clean-tech

Tsui Cham To

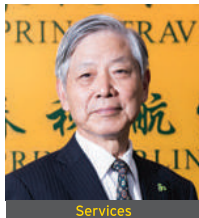
CT Environmental Group Limited
Chairman



Technology

Wang Yanan

Tongda Group Holdings Limited
Chairman and CEO



Services

Wang Zhenghua

Spring Airlines
Chairman



Clean-tech

Wei Wei

Bay Environmental Technology (Beijing) Corp.
Chairman, General Manager and Founder



Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences

Zhao Yan

Bloomage BioTechnology Corporation Limited
Chairman and Executive Director



Industrial Products

Zhou Xiaoguang

Neoglorry Holding Group Co., Ltd
Founder and Chairwoman

Supporting organizations



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Please visit www.ey.com/china/eoy to find out more about the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year China awards program.

■ SPECIAL REPORT ■

WINNERS

INSPIRATIONAL SUCCESS

Awards have been handed to those leaders with the vision to drive their enterprises to develop goods and services that bring social improvement, and who are building solid business legacies, writes **CHRIS DAVIS**

From industrial products, technology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences to media and entertainment, clean-tech and services, category winners in this year's Ernst & Young (EY) Entrepreneur of the Year China programme have skillfully demonstrated their abilities to combine vision and leadership to enterprises and business models that deliver social improvement and build lasting legacies that inspire the next generation.

Albert Ng, EY's Greater China chairman and managing partner, says the winning participants in this year's EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 China programme have demonstrated their achievements as entrepreneurs through their commitment to their businesses and their dedication to speed up growth and innovation to benefit the world around them.

For example, as the chairman and founder of AK Medical Holdings, Li Zhijiang, winner in the Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences category, has grown his business to become China's leading orthopaedic implant company, with a particular focus on hip and knee implants.

The company designs, develops, manufactures and markets orthopaedic implants and associated products. Using a combination of 3D imaging, and 3D printing technology to produce China's first State Food and Drug Administration-approved 3D-printed hip-joint implants, AK Medical is also the only one-stop orthopaedic operation solution provider in China.

Acknowledged for her exceptional vision, Zhou Xiaoguang, Neogly Holding Group founder and chairwoman and winner in the Industrial Products category, has established the company not only as the number one enterprise in China's consumer jewellery industry, but also one of the largest fashion jewellery R&D and manufacturing businesses in the world.

In a little over 10 years, Zhou has taken Neogly Holdings Group from being a start-up with a registered capital of two million yuan into a private business-integrated conglomerate spanning fashion jewellery, investment, trade, property development and finance with total assets of nearly 60 billion yuan. Runbaiyan, one of the



Li Zhijiang



Zhou Xiaoguang



Zhao Yan



Chen Yin



Girish Jhunjhunwala



Li Ruigang



Li Xuechun



Lap Man



Tsui Cham-to



Wang Yanan



Wang Zhenghua



Wei Wei

company's hyaluronic acid cosmetic injection products, is the first Chinese brand with its own independent intellectual property right, approved by the China Food and Drug Administration.

Driven by her passion for biotechnology, chairman and executive director, Zhou Xiaoguang, has transitioned Bloomage Bio Technology from a traditional hyaluronic acid raw material manufacturer to a high value-added hyaluronic acid-based medical beauty product provider and solution service provider.

Winner in the Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences category under Zhao's leadership, the company was listed on the main board of Hong Kong's stock exchange in 2008 and is now the largest hyaluronic acid raw material manufacturer in the world and a leading provider of medical beauty products and services in China. The eminent and nationally

renowned entrepreneur is also one of the high-profile female entrepreneurs representative of Zhejiang province.

In creating his top-selling brand of gardening tools, Chen Yin, founder of Greenworks and winner in the Industrial Products category, has used R&D to produce electric gardening tools powered by environment-friendly lithium batteries.

The number one brand in the national AG/DC-powered gardening tools market, Greenworks has grown from a small workshop to a modern plant covering 100,000 square metres, with sales growing to nearly two billion yuan and its workforce growing to more than 4,000 employees.

With 70 per cent of its products in the market, developed in the past three years, Chen believes the key to innovation is the key to Greenworks' success.

In a highly competitive

environment, Chen believes it is vital to make the most of technology to create competitive advantages.

In less than two decades of rapid development, through his entrepreneurial insight, winner in the Services category, Girish Jhunjhunwala, founder and CEO of the Ovolo Group, has developed a business model of all-inclusive hospitality based on acquired properties.

Having launched the company in 2002, Jhunjhunwala has expanded the business from its origins in serviced apartments to wider hospitality operations. By noticing gaps created when property owners operate separately from property managers, Jhunjhunwala created a bold strategy combining ownership and management to acquire a collection of properties with a distinct heritage to meet the diverse needs of the modern traveller.

A recognised market disruptor and rising star in the hospitality industry, the Ovolo Group owns and operates a collection of individually designed lifestyle hotels and serviced apartments in Hong Kong and Australia.

Meanwhile, with an extensive business portfolio that stretches from internet and mobile services to sports and lifestyle and there parks to musicals, Li Ruigang, founding chairman of CMC (China Media Capital) Group and winner in the Media and Entertainment category, has become one of the most influential media and entertainment players in China.

He has delighted audiences by bringing musicals to China that include local language versions of *Mamma Mia*, and *Cats*. CMC's portfolio include film, TV, animation, sports, music, fashion, games, talent agency, live entertainment, news, marketing and communication, data service,

smart TV, VR, location based entertainment, e-commerce, mobile social network, and online education.

Having founded bio-product manufacturer Fufeng Group in 1999 and successfully taken the company public on Hong Kong's stock exchange in 2013, Tsui has expanded its business from sewage treatment to the treatment of hazardous, solid kitchen waste, and in doing so has established a comprehensive presence along the entire industry chain.

The company has also become a leading centralised industrial water treatment enterprise in China, the largest solid waste treatment enterprise in Guangdong province, and a large-scale hazardous waste treatment enterprise.

Winner in the Technology category, Wang Yanan, chairman and CEO of Tongda Group Holdings, offers a one-stop service provider of consumer electronics casings products including electrical appliances, casings for mobile handsets, notebook computers and related products.

An eminent philanthropist, Wang has made a concerted effort to advance the company's collection of automation, which has significantly reduced production time and increased efficiency.

As an important player in the mobile phone industry chain in China and globally, Tongda Group has a significant market share in the Chinese branded phone components market.

In addition, the group plays a vital role in China's home appliance components market and has begun to expand into global markets, especially in automotive supply.

With a lifelong passion for charitable works, Wang Zhenghua, chairman of Spring Airlines, and winner in the Services category began his entrepreneurial journey in 1981 when he pioneered a new-style of "individual tour" through his Shanghai Spring Tour Agency. Eager to make

industry, where his principal business interests are centred.

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With a lifelong passion for charitable works, Wang Zhenghua, chairman of Spring Airlines, and winner in the Services category began his entrepreneurial journey in 1981 when he pioneered a new-style of "individual tour" through his Shanghai Spring Tour Agency. Eager to make

"affordable air travel" a reality, Wang founded Spring Airlines in 2004. The company, which has remained profitable since incorporation, maintains a fleet of 60 aircraft and operates more than 120 routes to 81 domestic and international destinations, carrying about 13 million passengers annually.

In addition, it has developed its own core business systems including flight operation, fleet management, maintenance information, ground control and safety management.

A further Spring Airlines core strength relies on in-house IT innovation. Spring Airlines operates a self-developed distribution, ticket reservation, settlement and departure system that runs independently from TravelSky's global distribution system.

Winner in the Clean-Tech category, Wei Wei, founder chairman and manager of Bay Environmental Technology (Beijing) (Bayeco), has established the company as a leading provider of a diverse range of pollution control solutions, mainly dealing with industrial VOC (volatile organic compound) and gases.

Bayeco has developed VOC treatment solutions for industry sectors including pharmaceuticals, paint and spray, printing, electronics and semiconductors.

In addition, the company has developed innovative technologies to deal with CO₂ emissions, which are often linked to climate change. Under Wei's leadership, Bayeco provides more than 25 per cent market share in industrial VOCs treatment, annually reducing the emission of VOCs by nearly 30,000 tonnes.

Bayeco has plans in place to focus on the development of refining and chemical bases, as well as the recovery and treatment of VOCs in petrochemical parks.

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ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

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Francis Leung
(Judging chairman)
Chairman, Greater China,
CVC Capital Partners



Anthony Fan
President, The Hong Kong
Independent Non-Executive
Director Association



Sean Fan
Managing director,
Merchant Banking,
Goldman Sachs



Kai Johan Jiang
Chairman, State Holdings;
Chairman, National Electric
Vehicle Sweden AB;
Emerging Entrepreneur of
the Year, EY Entrepreneur of
the Year 2008 China



Liu Xiaodan
CEO, Huatai United
Securities



Neil Wang
Global partner and
Greater China president,
Frost and Sullivan



Yang Guoping
Chairman, Dazhong
Transportation (Group);
Country Winner
mainland China region,
EY Entrepreneur of the
Year 2013 China