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The Governor's Multicultural Awards 2010

2010 GOVERNOR'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS

Presented on Tuesday 22 February 2011 at Government House

Outstanding Individual Achievement Award

Mr Peter Do

Peter Do has devoted himself to the promotion of multiculturalism for the past 10 years and stood out from a strong field to be the worthy recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Individual Achievement Award. Peter is an energetic member of a large number of associations and community groups, serving as President of many. From his earliest days in Adelaide establishing the first Asian supermarket on Hanson Road, to his groundbreaking work in the Overseas Chinese Association, Peter has promoted greater harmony and enriched multiculturalism in South Australia.

Of special note is his tremendous contribution to cross cultural community development, perhaps best illustrated through the OCA's Taxi Driver Project which has trained hundreds of cabbies who've come here not just from China but from across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. There is no doubt that Peter's leadership and management has been central to the success of the many outstanding projects he's conducted, and helped make South Australia the vibrant, diverse and harmonious State it is today.

A Centenary of Federation Medal recipient for services to multiculturalism, Peter can now most deservedly add the Governor's Multicultural Award for an Outstanding Individual to his honours list.

Volunteer Award

Joint Winners: **Mr Saroop Singh Johal** and **Ms Emiko Mayer**

For the past thirty years **Saroop Singh Johal** has made an outstanding contribution to the establishment and development of the Sikh community of the Riverland. Through his diligent participation in the Riverland Multicultural Forum and the Riverland Multicultural Festival, Saroop has also promoted the celebration of multicultural harmony in the Riverland region. He has shown great initiative and encouraged cross culture engagement amongst the wider community.

Emiko Mayer has provided 30 years of voluntary service promoting multiculturalism and improving community harmony. A former Vice President of the Australia Japan Association, she has been an interpreter, tour guide, and cultural advisor to sister city engagement between Port Adelaide and the Port of Mizushima, and between the City of Adelaide and Himeji. She has helped organise the Golden Week Japanese Festival in Adelaide, run calligraphy workshops at the Moon Lantern Festival and is a volunteer cultural presenter in schools, sharing Japanese culture, art and traditions with students. As a member of the Rotary Club of Morialta she has initiated a friendship agreement with the Rotary Club of Usa in Japan and arranged a cultural exchange between Magill Primary School and Amatsu Primary School. Emiko established a Japanese children's playgroup to help younger Japanese women settle into the community.

Public Sector Award

The Western Area Multicultural Youth Service

This Service – otherwise known as WAMYS – has provided a highly successful and notable service to the youth in Charles Sturt council area. This has included: a homework club; a drop-in social and recreation program; a Cycle Save project where participants get a reconditioned bike and accessories; helping youth with independent living; conducting a drug awareness expo; domestic violence awareness sessions and a personal development program; and running Harmony Day activities. What makes this service particularly valuable is its accessibility to young people from all cultural backgrounds including those from migrant, refugee and humanitarian backgrounds.

Commendation - Centrelink's Multicultural Services Unit in SA.

Centrelink's Multicultural Services Unit undertake many activities outside those it is funded for, and has contributed significantly to providing access and equity to people of CALD background. The unit has facilitated Multicultural Forums, trained staff to assist in the delivery of services to people of CALD background, assisted Family Visa applications, and provided sensitive services to those in special need. Staff have personally coordinated donations of clothing and toys for issue to needy families upon arrival in Australia.

Private Sector Award

Domenica Latorre

The judging panel felt that Domenica Latorre, the Managing Director of Miridella Proprietary Limited, showed great initiative in developing a program of practical training for women in farming. The panel was impressed with her determination to focus on women of diverse backgrounds and the way she worked within their culture and used their language to assist them to fulfil their business potential. Her innovative efforts have met an obvious need and in the process delivered an economic boost to regional communities.

Community Sector Award - Individual

Buol Garang A. Juuk

Buol has made an outstanding contribution to both the Sudanese and multicultural communities in South Australia, working on issues that are not only challenging but often taboo. The judges were impressed with Buol's knowledge and understanding of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and problem gambling. His work with communities, individuals, government and private organisations on these issues is exceptional. Buol's greatest achievement is his ability to inspire people to increase their capacity to dramatically improve their lives. At the same time Buol is continuing his tertiary education at Flinders University.

Commendation - Clara Tait

Clara is highly commended for her work with the Asthma Foundation SA. Her expertise, commitment and passion has made a real difference to the respiratory health education of CALD Communities at both a local and national level. Her valuable work with the Cancer Council SA is also acknowledged.

Community Sector Award - Organisation

Joint Winners - the **Limestone Coast Migrant Resource Centre and the **Lutheran Community Care Murraylands****

For the past six years, **Lutheran Community Care Murraylands** has been providing outstanding settlement services for humanitarian visa entrants in and around Murray Bridge. The judging panel was impressed with the organisation's effective collaboration with other agencies to coordinate and streamline assistance, thus easing the stress of settlement. The panel was also impressed by Lutheran Community Care's focus on empowering a range of ethno-specific community groups and their leaders through the large range of projects and services they are delivering to support new arrivals into the community.

As the name implies, the **Limestone Coast Migrant Resource Centre** operates within the South East area of the State which has, until recently, received small numbers of migrants and humanitarian entrants. That has now changed greatly - since 2007 the region has experienced significant growth in the number of new arrivals. The judging panel recognised how the Limestone Coast Migrant Resource Centre has successfully met the challenge of promoting the values and benefits of rich and diverse culture through planning, promoting and presenting a range of activities, including the formation of both a youth group and a seniors group in the district.

Youth Award - Individual

Akoi Guong

Akoi stood out from a strong field of candidates for his remarkably active contribution to youth initiatives, with a particular focus on the Sudanese community. His impressive achievements include: working with Sudanese youths in jail and upon their release, helping establish the state's multicultural youth ambassador scheme, organising a celebration for some 300 Sudanese youths who arrived as humanitarian refugees and went on to graduate from tertiary studies, and promoting cultural understanding through Sudanese community events such as a costume competition and traditional dancing at a University open day. Akoi is now writing a book on his own life as a Sudanese orphan in a bid to inspire other young African refugees, and is looking to help youths in Sudan through international education.

Youth Award - Organisation

University of Adelaide International Student Centre's *Peer Mentor Program*

The *Peer Mentor Program* is an example of genuine selflessness by young people seeking to help others. The program is run by current students who volunteer to help new students settle into Adelaide and university life. In the past year its impact has been astonishing, with 43 young students providing support to more than 2,000 new international students in Adelaide. Even more impressive is the fact that the 43 volunteers comprised 15 Australian students and 28 others from 14 different countries – a truly multicultural organisation.

Media Award - Individual

Ms Karen Ashford

Karen Ashford has excelled as the Special Broadcasting Service's correspondent in South Australia for the past 17 years. Each year Karen produces up to 600 news stories, an outstanding effort. Her recent contributions include reporting on challenges facing the State's African communities. Also the evolution of the South Australian Muslim community and reporting on the debate to ban the burqa and other religious garments. On a personal level Karen shares her knowledge and skills within the community. Her dedication and commitment to multiculturalism make her a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Commendation - **Zaida Antezana.**

Zaida is highly commended for her role as founder and co-ordinator of Radio Adelaide's Latin community program *Amistad*. She is affectionately known as the "mother" of the local Latin American community. In addition to her radio work Zaida, works as an unofficial settlement support worker helping new arrivals to adjust to life in South Australia.

Media Award - Organisation

Radio Televisione Italiana

Radio Televisione Italiana started transmitting on 5UV (now radio adelaide) in 1975. It is run by volunteers and for the past 35 years has been broadcasting radio programs through EBI, for the Italian community living in the metropolitan area as well as those living in many South Australian country regions. Radio Televisione Italiana has established itself as a vital part of the Italian community life in South Australia with a long tradition of tireless community and charity work.