



**News Release**  
**For Immediate Publication**

## **NIPPON PAINT APPOINTS AYDA COUNCIL MEMBERS 2019/20**

*Asia Young Designer Awards Council 2019/20 represented by  
9 recognised architectural and interior design experts from Asia*

If any of the council member is from your country, you may replace the headline above with this headline for localisation: "XXX APPOINTED AS NIPPON PAINT AYDA COUNCIL MEMBER 2019/20"

**Singapore**, 30 July 2018 – NIPSEA Group, known throughout Asia as Nippon Paint, has officially appointed an independent advisory panel for its maiden Asia Young Designer Awards Council 2019/20 ('AYDA Council'). The Council comprises of 9 renowned industry experts within the Architecture and Interior Design fields as well as sustainability consultants and academics alike.

The newly appointed AYDA Council comprises of **Mr Astley Ng**, Regional Creative Director of SC+DC PTE LTD (Singapore); **Mr Horace Pan**, Founder of Panaroma (Hong Kong); **Mr Michael Pizarro**, Principal Interior Designer of Michael Pizarro Interior Design (Philippines); **Ar Kazuma Yamao**, Founding Partner of GINGRICH (Japan); **Mr Keat Ong**, Founder of Nota Design Group and President of Society of Interior Designers, Singapore (Singapore & China); **Ar Ezumi Ismail**, Director of ARKITEK MAA SDN BHD and President of Malaysian Institute of Architects (Malaysia); **Ms Lea Avilani Aziz**, President Director/Principal of PT Elenbee Cipta Desain (Indonesia); **Ms Vipavadee Patpongpibul**, Founder & CEO of P49 Deesign & Associates Co. Ltd as well as **Ar Siritip Harntaweewongsa**, Co-Founder & Sustainable Design Director of GreenDwell, who are both from Thailand.

For local teams that has a council member from your country, you may add into the paragraph above explaining in more detail about this council member if needed. Below is an example of how the above paragraph can look like if you add more details about a council member from your country:

**Example for Singapore's local release:**

Mr Astley Ng, Regional Creative Director of SC + DC PTE LTD (Singapore) was appointed into the council. Bringing with him over 20 years of experience in the industry, Mr Astley is a multiple regional design award speaker who regularly speaks in school and public forums, actively mentoring design students who shares his beliefs in art, design, sustainability and philosophy. Other council members also include Mr Horace Pan, Founder of Panaroma (Hong Kong); Mr Michael Pizarro, Principal Interior Designer of Michael Pizarro Interior Design (Philippines); Ar

Kazuma Yamao, Founding Partner of GINGRICH (Japan); Mr Keat Ong, Founder of Nota Design Group (Singapore & China) and President of Society of Interior Designers, Singapore; Ar Ezumi Ismail, Director of ARKITEK MAA SDN BHD and President of Malaysian Institute of Architects (Malaysia); Ms Lea Avilani Aziz, President Director/Principal of PT Elenbee Cipta Desain (Indonesia); Ms Vipavadee Patpongpijul, Founder & CEO of P49 Deesign & Associates Co. Ltd as well as Ar Siritip Harntaweewongsa, Co-Founder & Sustainable Design Director of GreenDwell, who are both from Thailand.



**Back row (L-R):** Mr Astley Ng (Singapore); Mr Horace Pan (Hong Kong); Mr Michael Pizarro (Philippines);  
Ar Kazuma Yamao (Japan)

**Front row (L-R):** Mr Keat Ong (Singapore & China); Ar Ezumi Ismail (Malaysia); Mr Wee Siew Kim, Chief Executive Officer of NIPSEA Group; Ms Lea Avilani Aziz (Indonesia); Ms Vipavadee Patpongpijul (Thailand); Ar Siritip Harntaweewongsa (Thailand) and Ms Teri Choong, Director of Corporate Affairs of NIPSEA Group

Hailing from various Asian markets, the appointment of the AYDA Council marks a significant milestone for the Asia Young Designer Awards (AYDA) as it further elevates the programme to greater heights by providing strategic direction and counsel, with the aim of creating a positive impact amongst the communities and its participants.

During the duration of the appointment, the AYDA Council will play an active role in establishing and growing the programme leveraging on their expertise and experiences in their respective fields. Further to that, the input from the council members will also focus on elevating the profiles of young design talents, paving way for them to be nurtured as innovative, confident leaders of the future.

***“Working alongside the local and regional mentors, the AYDA Council aims to spark greater interest amongst the relevant industries to further grow and cultivate the younger generation of up and coming aspiring architects and interior designers alike. Over the years, I’m proud to say that many AYDA Alumni have progressed to becoming reputable architects and interior designers in their field - from being attached to globally-recognised architectural firms to taking on leadership roles in self-established firms. Indeed, Asia Young Designer Awards has grown from strength to strength in the last 10 years. What’s different this year onwards is our strategic decision to form an AYDA Council,”*** shared Mr Wee Siew Kim, Chief Executive Officer of NIPSEA Group.

In April 2018, Nippon Paint partnered with the Harvard University Graduate School of Design ('GSD') to establish the Gennosuke Obata Fellowship Fund which provides financial aid to GSD students from Asian countries, helping to attract, enroll, and support talented design scholars from the region as they work to become leaders in transforming the social and built environment. Nippon Paint's gift of USD300,000 to establish The Gennosuke Obata Fellowship Fund includes an additional program for the Regional Winners of AYDA - rewarding both winners from the Architecture and Interior Design categories with a 6 week all-expense paid for Design Discovery program where they will have the privilege to learn and experience intensive studio work, lectures, workshops and field trips.

***"The AYDA Council will have a strong voice in nurturing the personal development for budding architects and designers in Asia, demonstrating how design can change lives, positively impact the environment and landscape while addressing important issues such as sustainability and deployability specifically in low-income nations. For the upcoming editions of AYDA, we are looking to create more exciting and relevant competition themes whilst enriching their experiences further throughout their AYDA journey,"*** he added.

Spearheaded by Nippon Paint, AYDA is now one of Asia's most renowned design award which serves as a platform for architecture and interior design students to showcase their boundless creativity and innovative ideas. Understanding the need to create a platform for students to better understand the Architecture and Interior Design industry as a whole, AYDA presents participants with a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to further develop their skills through experiences such as networking and workshop sessions with renowned industry professionals and like-minded individuals. More than that, AYDA participants are able to unleash their fullest potential when presenting their final showcase of ideas to a panel of esteemed judges who share the same passion for creativity and design.

To date, AYDA has received more than 7,000 entries from over 600 universities in 15 different regions in Asia. Previously, AYDA had also bagged the Silver award under the Corporate Social Responsibility category in the highly-acclaimed Malaysia PR Awards 2016/17 by the Public Relations Consultants' Association of Malaysia (PRCA Malaysia).

The competition theme for AYDA 2018/19, "FORWARD: Challenging Design Boundaries" pushes young talents to think ahead beyond the perimeters of design, with the aim to push the envelope of creativity through various means of disruptions; be it new-edge technology or a non-existent sustainability.

AYDA 2018/19 is now open for submissions until **October 9, 2018 (Please revise submission deadline according to local market)**. For more information on AYDA or to download the entry booklet, kindly log on to [www.asiayoungdesigneraward.com/award](http://www.asiayoungdesigneraward.com/award) **(Note: Local markets to revise website link if required)**

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## **About The NIPSEA Group**

*NIPSEA has solidified its position as \*Asia's No. 1 Coating and Paint specialist in Asia, known in the marketplace by its brand as "Nippon Paint" and is responsible for expanding its operation and development of Nippon Paint in Asia. It has become the best coating partner for architectural, automotive, industrial, marine, O&G, specialised clients and millions of families across Asia. Nippon Paint is recognised for its dedication to quality, top-of-the-line innovation, ground-breaking products and exceptional customer service.*

*With more than 70 NIPSEA companies spread throughout Asia, it understands the local needs of its customers in every community. Each company embraces diversity and operates together with a strong Pan-Asia presence. NIPSEA Group has over 21,000 employees with 61 manufacturing facilities and operations in 15 countries including Singapore, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Philippines, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates efficiently serving all aspects of the business, from production to customer satisfaction.*

*\*Source: Top 25 2018 Paint Manufacturers in Asia Pacific. Asia Pacific Coatings Journal, pp.4*

For more information, visit <http://www.nipponpaint.com>

## **About Asia Young Designer Awards (AYDA)**

*The Asia Young Designer Awards (AYDA) was founded in Malaysia back in 2008, and its reach has grown exponentially over the years. To date, AYDA has received more than 7,000 entries from over 600 universities in 15 different regions in Asia. AYDA has since grown in terms of reach and stature and has now established itself as one of Asia's premier design award spanning across 15 countries namely Bangladesh, China and region of China (Hong Kong & Taiwan), India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.*

*AYDA is an extension of the Nippon Paint brand with the aim to groom budding architects and interior designers across Asia. Every year, student participants go through a rigorous selection process to present the most creative and innovative ideas at the national level and eventually compete for the grand title of Asia Young Designer at the regional level mentored by a panel of judges comprising more than 20 reputable industry professionals, both at local as well as regional level.*

*Over the years, AYDA has impacted thousands of young and talented student designers, presenting them with various opportunities to engage with renowned speakers and key figures in the design industry. Not only has the exposure enabled the participants to gain first hand industry knowledge, personalised coaching, mentoring and skill-building through various workshops by experienced lecturers, they also learn from their fellow peers from across borders.*

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