NUS Engineering researcher honoured by JCI for her passion and commitment in contributing to society

Assoc Prof Ho Ghim Wei receiving the Award from Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health and for Manpower.

A STELLAR example for young researchers, Associate Professor Ho Ghim Wei, NUS Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, received the honoree award (Scientific and/or Technological Development) at the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) 2015 award ceremony (29 May).

"The TOYP finalists are stellar examples of how success can be achieved through hard work and tenacity, regardless of where they started. Through their enthusiasm, determination and commitment, they have made significant and meaningful contribution to society," said Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Health and for Manpower, who presented the awards at the gala dinner.

Annually, JCI selects 10 outstanding persons who display great accomplishments in a variety of fields. The theme for 2015 ‘Where Great Minds Meet’ represents JCI’s desire to bring together outstanding Singaporeans and recognize them for their contributions. Nominations for the TOYP award were received from ministries, statutory boards, major organizations, associations. Successful candidates were shortlisted for a panel interview. This year, there were more than 200 nominees, of which 14 are finalists for honoree and merit awards of different categories.

Assoc Prof Ho has received in excess of $10 million research funding as a Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI, publishing more than 80 scientific articles mainly in the field of solar energy conversion technologies. She is a recipient of the L’OREAL UNESCO for Women in Science Fellowship in 2014. Her focus is on making contributions to scientific and technological advancement in energy and environmental sustainability.

"This research field poses many cross-cutting themes from the materials, conversion efficiency to socio-economic impacts. Such multi-faceted research involves in-depth considerations that span from fundamental understanding to applied research that are complex and interrelated. All these require a well-thought research strategy that enables the development of a pragmatic and highly efficient decarbonised energy and environmental system,” she said.

Looking forward, Assoc Prof Ho hopes to bring about a greater recognition of an under-represented woman contributing in the field of Engineering Science, through her impact and innovation in both education and research.