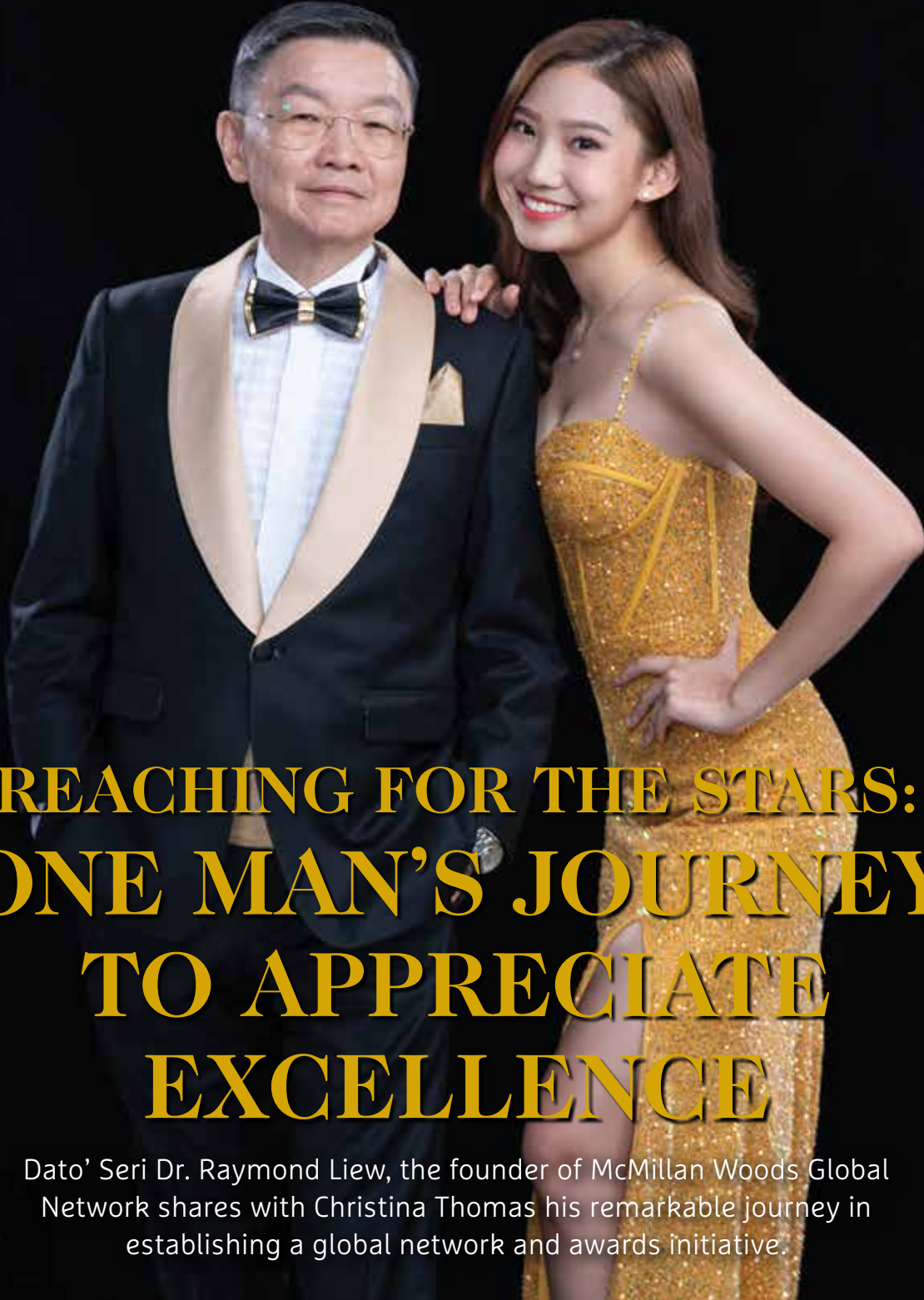




McMillanWoods
Professionalism at the forefront



REACHING FOR THE STARS: ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO APPRECIATE EXCELLENCE

Dato' Seri Dr. Raymond Liew, the founder of McMillan Woods Global Network shares with Christina Thomas his remarkable journey in establishing a global network and awards initiative.

DSRL tuxedo by Pinky Tailor. Rachel Hsu Xin dressed in Chic by Bae



The McMillan Woods Global Network was born out of the passion of one man to recognise and applaud success, excellence and distinction. Driven by his vision to create shining stars in industries across the world, Dato' Seri Dr. Raymond first introduced the McMillan Woods Global Network (MWGN) on 9 January 2010. MWGN is an association comprising independent local and regional firms of recognised qualified accountants and professional advisors. The association is aimed at providing members and their clients with the capability of furnishing a broader spectrum of accounting, auditing, advisory and management services on a cutting-edge, cost-effective basis.

"Our mission is to meet our clients' highest expectations, and to exceed them is our goal. Key to this is to be a global strategic partner in value-creation and multi-disciplinary partnerships," Dato' Seri Dr. Raymond asserts.

THE BUSINESS MIND

Dato' Seri Dr. Raymond explains that the success that McMillan Woods was built upon is effective networking.

"In fact, our tagline, 'The Business Mind', symbolises the core

of our company. We see ourselves as the mastermind for all our clients' needs," he points out.

In sharing about the inspiration behind MWGN, Dato' Seri Dr Raymond expresses, "I created this network to do what is right for my late father. I am the apple of my late father's eye. It has always been my motivation to create something new and inspiring, and not merely what is seen every day."

Basically, his goal was to create a legacy, "I wanted something that could move the network fast and effectively, hence, the industry tagline of Professionalism at the Forefront!"

GROWTH AND GLOBAL PRESENCE

To-date, MWGN has grown in leaps and bounds, with a strong presence in 75 countries with multiple offices in each country.

Dato' Seri Dr. Raymond attributes the rapid expansion of the global network within a short span of time to the sense of camaraderie and brotherhood that member firms and individual members feel as part of the global network.

"When they join us, they are no longer alone – they become part of the global community of firms," he stresses.

He insists that giving back to society is good karma. "As we bring in more and more members, we also give our members more benefits in terms of networking and interacting, thus creating a synergy of entrepreneurs. That is why our tagline is called The Business Mind – which basically means that whatever your problems are, just think of us to find a solution," says Dato' Seri Dr Raymond.

"Our Global Network is very different from others – we do not believe in making money off our stakeholders. We collect no royalties beyond a cursory annual fee for the upkeep and maintenance of our Global Network," he elaborates.

MCMILLAN WOODS GLOBAL AWARDS

As the network grew, Dato' Seri Dr Raymond realised that it was time to recognise his network partners, clients and business entrepreneurs for excellence and their contributions to the thriving economic ecosystem in their respective markets and countries. This saw the birth of the McMillan Woods Global Awards, conceptualised to recognise exemplary leaders who have successfully steered their ships against the massive waves of global



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– Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond Liew, the Founder of McMillan Woods Global Network
• Audit • Tax • Advisory

economic challenges and yet emerged victorious.

Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond emphasises, “Unlike other award organisations, the Global Awards recognise recipients who do what they do with the sort of integrity, accountability, responsibility and professionalism that is unseen elsewhere.”

The award is built on the motto of accountability, transparency, good governance and most importantly, integrity.

In fact, these are the exact values

that his late father subscribed to and taught him. Raised in a well-to-do family and then witnessing his father’s fortunes disintegrate into poverty, Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond vowed to rise out of poverty and succeed. Having made his way to London, England with just very little money in his pocket, he was on a mission to beat the odds, which was exactly what he did and succeeded.

Armed with a professional accountancy degree, followed by a Master’s Degree in Business, back in 1986, and subsequently gaining his

doctorate in 2020, Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond worked his way through the corporate world in London, England and established himself. However, with a burning desire to venture out and conquer uncharted frontiers, he returned to Malaysia in 1998 to start an accounting consultancy.

THE INAUGURAL AWARDS

In making the first awards event successful, Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond credits his close friend, Dr. Georgina Hope Rinehart AO, who not only



supported him but also made financial contributions towards the success of the inaugural awards. Since then, her support has been constant for the global awards initiative.

“I was inspired by the Ernst & Young (EY) Awards and decided to create an international award that would surpass it,” he adds.

The awards not only recognise success and excellence but also serve as a platform for nominees and guests to donate to worthy causes. Every year, proceeds from the awards are channelled to various philanthropic initiatives, and a specific charity is highlighted at the annual awards ceremony.

Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond reminisces the proud moment

when the first inaugural McMillan Woods Global Awards rolled out the red carpet on 1 November 2012 with award recipients in the likes of Dr. Georgina Hope Rinehart AO, the richest and most powerful woman in Australia; Dato’ Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor, the Malaysian astronaut; Amber Chia, the Malaysian supermodel; and, Dr. Binod Chaudhary, the richest man in Nepal among others. Even the renowned Datuk Jackie Chan joined the award’s hall of fame, amidst other celebrities.

Since then, McMillan Woods Global Awards has rolled out the red carpets for many distinguished entrepreneurs and business leaders, welcoming a colourful array of prominent world business leaders

through its doors. The global awards are a much sought-after and awaited annual event that crowns budding as well as seasoned entrepreneurs for their participation in progressing the business landscape.

“I always believe that if you want to pursue your dream, nothing is going to stop you if you set your mind to achieve it. But you must have concerted effort and the will to move forward. So, to put it simply, nothing is insurmountable if you put your mind, your body and your soul into attaining that goal,” he advises.

RAISING STARS ONTO THE GLOBAL STAGE

Seeking to recognise eminent global award recipients every year is no easy feat, but Dato’ Seri Dr. Raymond has Rachel Hsu Xin, his daughter, at his side to support him to continue to bring stars to the forefront of the global stage.

“I started helping out in the global awards in 2022, and it was quite challenging at first as I was still quite young. I had my fair share of struggles with handling international logistics, but I am lucky to have my father with me to guide me with his vast experience,” shares Rachel Hsu Xin.

A young graduate in public relations, Rachel Hsu Xin has breathed fresh ideas into the awards organisation over the last two years. However, she quips that it has been



“Despite having managed the awards for the past two years, there is still so much to learn.”

– Rachel Hsu Xin
McMillan Woods Global Ambassador

quite challenging to convince her father to delve into the latest trends and ways of doing things. She explains that in driving the awards, she has had help from various public relations analytics tools and other resources that have given her an edge in her professional work.

Nevertheless, Rachel Hsu Xin feels that she is fortunate to have the opportunities presented to her to participate in such an esteemed global awards initiative at a young age. Rachel Hsu Xin shares that social media has been a great help in promoting the awards and raising awareness in the international arena.

She shares her experience in participating in beauty pageants, the first of which she won the Miss ChiPao Malaysia 2019, then Miss Tourism Malaysia (Queen of The Year) in 2021. She continued to participate in several pageants, and her last winning title was Miss CosmoWorld Malaysia 1st Runner Up 2022.

For Rachel, pride and gratitude intertwined seamlessly has made her what she is today, and she recognises and cherishes the contributions of those who have helped her along the way. These experiences helped her to gain

exposure in social circles, which is important in organising awards. She is currently in the process of planning her own beauty pageant with a different twist that steers from the norm.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH CSR

To date, McMillan Woods Global Network has contributed over RM2 million in donations to charitable organisations through its signature CSR programme – The McM Cares corporate social responsibility programme. Charitable organisations that have benefitted from these initiatives include the National Stroke Association of Malaysia (NASAM), National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM), the National Blind Association, flood victims in Sabah, Save Environment Save Ourselves (SESO) and the Hemophilia Society of Malaysia (HSM), among many others.

Other than the annual global awards events, McMillan Woods also organises many other CSR events, such as scaling Mount Kinabalu with the support of TV3, taking on the impossible task of “120K Steps Challenge” within 18 hours, something which has never been done before and many more. Another remarkable effort is the world’s most expensive tiniest cupcake that was auctioned at RM10,000, all in the name of charity! ■