

Distinguished Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Award 2022



Mr Othman Haron Eusofe (Economics and Political Science '64)

Mr Othman Haron Eusofe graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the then University of Singapore in 1964. He started his working career in the Administrative Service (1964-1980) and was posted to the following Ministries; Law (Land Office), Communications, Finance (Budget Division) and Trade and Industry (Trade Department). In June 1980, Mr. Othman was seconded to the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), Administration and Research Unit.

Mr Othman was elected as Member of Parliament from December 1980 to May 2006 and was the Chairman of the Marine Parade Town Council. Mr Othman was an Advisor to several trade unions and was elected as a member of the NTUC Central Committee. In August 1993, he was appointed as NTUC's Deputy Secretary General and was a key member of the NTUC team on the National Wages Council. Mr Othman served on the Boards of several Statutory Boards including Public Utilities Board, Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Singapore Polytechnic Board of Governors, National Productivity Board and the National University of Singapore Council. Mr Othman was appointed as a Director of the Comfort Group Limited and several of its subsidiaries. Mr Othman was a member of the Majlis Ugama Islam (MUIS) from August 1977 to August 1980. He was a Founder Member of Yayasan Mendaki which was established in October 1982 to urgently introduce programmes to help Malay students to improve in their educational performance. He continues to serve on the Mendaki Council. He was the Chairman of Mendaki SENSE (Social Enterprise Network Singapore Private Limited) from June 2006 to June 2011.

Mr Othman was appointed as a Minister of State (Manpower) from 1997 to 2001. From November 2001 to August 2004, he was the Mayor of South-East Community Development Council. He was appointed as Minister of State (Prime Minister's Office) from 13 August 2004 to June 2005 and was deployed to the NTUC. He continued to work in NTUC until December 2005. Thereafter, he went on to serve as the Chairman of NTUC Education and Training Fund Board of Trustees until May 2014 and a member of the NTUC Board of Trustees until 31 October 2017.

Mr Othman is currently a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights. He is also a Pro-Chancellor in Nanyang Technological University.



Mrs Elizabeth Sam (Economics '62)

Mrs Elizabeth Sam graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the then University of Singapore in 1962. She is one of Singapore's best-known female bankers. She became the first female board member of a big four bank when she was appointed to the main Board of the OCBC in October 1996.

Her career spanned over 40 years, with the first half of it in the public sector where she played a key role in the growth of Singapore as a global financial centre. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honours) from the University of Singapore and joined the Ministry of Finance in 1962 as an administrative officer. Followed by various positions in the Ministry including Deputy Secretary in the Economics Development Division, Deputy Controller of Foreign Exchange and Director of Overseas Investment. Then joining the MAS when it was established. By 1976, she was promoted to Chief Manager, and left in 1981.

During her tenure at the Ministry of Finance and the MAS, she was responsible for the development of financial markets in Singapore – in particular the development of the Asian Dollar market and the foreign exchange market. She later played an important role in the development of the futures market, and was Chairman of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange for two terms. As the Chairman, she was part of the team that successfully pioneered the Mutual Offset System in 1984, which made the Eurodollar fungible with the contract traded on the then-Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

From 1981 to 1987, Mrs Sam was a main Board Director of Mercantile House Holdings PLC. She joined OCBC Bank in January 1988 as Executive Vice President. In October 1996, she became the first woman to be appointed to the main board of a big four bank. In 1996, Mrs Sam was awarded the Public Service Star (BBM), Republic of Singapore, for her contributions to the nation's development as a global financial centre. And the following year, she was recognised as one of the top 50 outstanding women globally in finance by Euromoney.

When she retired, Mrs Sam took up ballroom dancing and regularly participates in ballroom dance competitions.