



ST PHOTOS: LIM SIN THAI

GO, FIGHT, WIN: Winners of the Spirit of Enterprise Awards include pet stylists (left) Augustine Lim and Gloria Ho, a husband and wife team, and fengshui expert Adelina Pang, who were recognised for their ability to suss out and seize business opportunities.

42 go-getters lauded for their daring, indomitable spirit

BY CHUA HIAN HOU

PET stylists, fengshui experts, bakers and a boutique hotelier are among the 42 entrepreneurs honoured at an awards ceremony last night.

These go-getters were singled out from a field of 156 nominees in the annual Spirit of Enterprise awards for their ability to suss out – and seize – opportunities.

Minister of State for Community Development, Youth and

Sports Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, paid tribute to the “daring, perseverance and indomitable spirit” of these entrepreneurs at a ceremony at the Pan Pacific Hotel last night.

Entrepreneurs, said Mrs Yu-Foo, “inject dynamism and contribute significantly to our economy with their ability to innovate and seize opportunities”.

Winners of the Spirit of Enterprise Awards include dog-lovers Augustine Lim and Gloria Ho, who noticed that pet groomers

here were simply shaving, not styling, their furry customers. So they quit their jobs to start Pet-Stylist, and positioned it as a high-end styling salon for dogs to set it apart from the 350 other pet groomers here.

To ensure that they live up to their promise, Ms Ho went to the United States to undergo training in making dogs look good.

The shop also secured agreements to sell high-end dog-grooming shampoos and fragrances at their Holland Grove Road outlet.

The non-profit, privately-funded awards were launched in 2003 to honour entrepreneurs in the manufacturing field, but they have since gone on to include small and medium-sized enterprises in industries like lifestyle services and food and beverage.

The company behind the awards, Spirit of Enterprise, has also set up programmes to foster entrepreneurial spirit.

One scheme involves getting students from 10 schools to interview entrepreneurs while another funds student entrepreneurship programmes.

A full list of the winners and the inspiring stories behind their successes is available on the Spirit of Enterprise website – www.soe.org.sg

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