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## **Lawyer from Singapore wins Toastmasters' 2016 World Championship of Public Speaking®**

*Darren Tay rises above 30,000 participants to win world's largest speech contest*

**RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, Calif., Aug. 22, 2016** — With a humorous speech titled "Outsmart; Outlast," Darren Tay, a 27-year-old newly minted lawyer from Singapore, won the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking on Saturday, Aug. 20. Tay, along with nine other finalists, reached the championship level after several elimination rounds that began six months ago with 30,000 participants from more than 100 countries. Watch Tay compete [here](#).

"It's a dream come true; it feels surreal," said the winner, who has experience competing in debate in high school and college but said he joined Toastmasters to hone his interpersonal skills. He said he entered the contest "to discover my limitations" and to "share my message with a larger audience."

His speech resonated with the capacity crowd of 1,600 people from around the world who attended the contest at Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. His winning speech was a personal tale about being bullied in school; he memorably put on a pair of Calvin Klein white underwear for five minutes to illustrate how his bully made him put on a pair of underwear and wear it at school. His aunt told him not to run and hide from a bully, but to "outsmart and outlast" him. His speech was about how he later as an adult met that childhood bully, who ironically had become a psychologist and anti-bullying expert, and made peace with him. Tay made the analogy that, "As much as we try to deny it, we all are our own strongest enemies; we beat ourselves up and put ourselves down. How long have you allowed your inner bully to take charge?"

Tay joined Toastmasters seven years ago. He thanked his "global Toastmasters family for giving me so much without expecting anything in return." He hopes the title of World Champion of Public Speaking will lead to a career in professional speaking.

Contestants delivered five-to seven-minute speeches on wide-ranging topics and were judged on content, organization and delivery.

Tay claimed the title of Toastmasters 2016 World Champion of Public Speaking during the organization's annual convention held in Washington, D.C., Aug. 17-20.

Second- and third-place winners were Aaron Beverly from Philadelphia, Penn., with a speech facetiously titled, "[Leave a lasting memory using as few words as possible and strive with every fiber in your being to avoid being the type of person who rambles on and on with no end in sight more likely than not causing listeners to sit and think to themselves oh my goodness can somebody please make this stop.](#)" Third place went to Josephine Lee from Santa Ana, Calif., with her speech, "[I Will Be There.](#)"

### **About Toastmasters International**

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., the organization's membership exceeds 345,000 in more than 15,900 clubs in 142 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Follow [@Toastmasters](https://twitter.com/Toastmasters) on Twitter.



Media Contact:  
First Name, Last Name  
phone  
email

(Club name) Toastmasters host open house with guest speaker  
Event is free to the public

(YOUR CITY, STATE, COUNTRY, date of submission)—(Club Name) Toastmasters ([www.clubxxx.com](http://www.clubxxx.com)) [[hyperlink text](#) to club website], invites residents to its open house to meet members and watch special guest speaker, (First name, Last name), (Occupation Title) of (Company) talk about the importance of **communication skills for today's professional**.

“(Club name) Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills,” says (First name, Last name), (Club President) for Toastmasters (club X). “

After hearing from (special guest speaker, Last name), members and guests will enjoy a regular Toastmasters meeting that will include prepared speeches, Table Topics™ (impromptu speeches) and evaluations.

Club (Title) (First name, Last name), who has served in various club positions, will be the Table Topics master. “Table Topics are **one of my favorite parts of the meeting**,” says (Last name). “**This is** where guests and members are randomly selected to speak for one to two minutes. It helps you think and speak clearly on your feet.”

Other speakers include (First name, Last name), (Occupation Title) of (Company); (First name, Last name), (Occupation Title) of (Company) and (First name, Last name), (Occupation Title) of (Company).

(Club X) Toastmasters Open House

Date: (Day, Date, Year)

Location: (Location Name, Address)

Time: (Time a.m./p.m. –Time a.m./p.m. )

For more information, email (First name, Last name) at ([email@address.com](mailto:email@address.com)).

Toastmasters (club X) meets each (Day of the week) at (Time) (a.m. or p.m.) at the (Location name) between (main cross streets) in (City). For more information about this event and the club, please visit [www.clubxxx.com](http://www.clubxxx.com) ([hyperlink text](#) to club website).

#### About District XX

District (XX) comprises more than (XX) corporate and community clubs in (City, State/Province). To learn more about District (XX) please visit: [www.districtxx.com](http://www.districtxx.com) [[hyperlink text](#) to district website]

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Media Contact:  
First Name, Last Name  
phone  
email

## (City name) resident to receive Toastmasters Communication Achievement Award

(YOUR CITY, STATE, COUNTRY, date of submission—(First name, Last name), (Occupation Title) at (Company) in (City) will be honored by (Club Name) Toastmasters of (City) for (his/her) achievement in the field of (communication or leadership). The event will be held on (Day of week) at (Time) (a.m. or p.m.) at the (Location name) in (City).

“(Insert quote from the honoree about the importance of communication skills ),” **says** (Last name of honoree).

(Honoree’s Last name) communication achievements include, (include a short blurb here about why the honoree earned the award and his or her brief biography.

“(Insert quote here from the club president about why the honoree is a worthy recipient and how she or he demonstrates excellence in communication and/or leadership),” **says** (First name, Last name), (Club President) for Toastmasters (club X).

[Toastmasters International](#) is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches communication and leadership skills through a worldwide network of more than 15,900 clubs in 142 countries. In (XX) (City or County) there are (XX) Toastmasters clubs: (if there are only a couple clubs, feel free to list them here).

**The Toastmasters’ Communication Achievement Award** is for a non-Toastmasters member, someone outside a Toastmasters club, either in the community or an organization—a distinguished individual in the fields of communication or leadership.

Toastmasters (club X) meets regularly each (Day of the week) at (Time) (a.m. or p.m.) at the (Location name) between (main cross streets) in (City). For more information about the event and club, please visit [www.clubxxx.com](#) ([hyperlink text](#) to club website).

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Media Contact:  
First Name, Last Name  
Phone Number  
Email Address

Title (Myriad Pro or Arial Font, Size 14 Bold)

Sub-title (Myriad Pro or Arial Font, Size 12)

CITY, STATE, Month Day, Year (date of distribution)—Please refer to the [Let the World Know](#) manual (item 1140) for guidance and examples of news releases.

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