

Tommy Koh honoured for work that contributed significantly to Asia

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Veteran diplomat Tommy Koh has been named one of three winners of the 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award.

The eponymous award, established in 1957 in memory of the Philippines' seventh president, recognises individuals and organisations whose work has made a significant



Singapore's veteran diplomat Tommy Koh is one of three winners of the 2026 Ramon Magsaysay Award.

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contribution to Asia.

"We are so proud that Professor Tommy Koh of Singapore has received this recognition," said the Singapore Embassy in Manila in a Facebook post on Aug 31. It noted that Koh's career has spanned more than five decades of diplomacy, international law and public service.

Koh served as president of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and played a key role in bringing the negotia-

tions on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to a successful conclusion in 1982.

He also chaired negotiations at the 1992 UN Earth Summit and chaired the high-level task force that drafted the ASEAN Charter in 2007, said the embassy.

Beyond diplomacy, Koh has also contributed to education and public discourse in Singapore, including as the founding rector of Tembusu College at the National University of

Singapore.

The embassy said the award comes as Koh steps down as Ambassador-at-Large at Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Koh is the fourth Singaporean recipient of the award, following in the footsteps of former minister for national development Lim Kim San, who received the award in 1965; then Minister for Defence Goh Keng Swee in 1972; and Willing Hearts founder Tony Tay in 2017.

"Congratulations, Professor Koh, on this significant recognition," said the embassy.

The other awardees are Bangladeshi humanitarian Runa Khan and Myanmar activist Bo Kyi.

The winners of the award will be recognised at Manila's Metropolitan Theatre on Nov 15 with a medallion, an inscribed certificate and an undisclosed cash prize, reported AP.

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