

Janice Koh

Actress

Title: Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite, or Knight of the National Order of Merit
From: Mr Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore
When: June this year

Koh, patron of the Voiloh! France Singapore Festival in 2019, is recognised for her contributions to French culture and working closely with her French counterparts to bring various plays to audiences in Singapore and France.

The 48-year-old former Nominated Member of Parliament will receive her title in a ceremony at Wild Rice Theatre tomorrow.



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Title: Dato' Sri Paduka Mahkota Johor, or Grand Commander of the Order of the Crown of Johor, First Class
From: Johor's Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar
When: Last month

This title is southern Malaysian state Johor's highest honour.

Johor's ruler, Sultan Ibrahim, thanked PM Lee, 70, for his efforts to strengthen the longstanding close and strong relations between the state and Singapore.

The order, created in 1886, is the oldest given by a Malaysian state.

Previous Singapore recipients include then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and then Law Minister E.W. Barker, in 1984, and then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in 1991.

PM Lee's wife, Madam Ho Ching, 69, was also awarded the Dato' Sri Mulia Sultan Ibrahim Johor (Grand Commander of the Order of Sultan Ibrahim of Johor, First Class) title at the same ceremony held at the Istana Besar in Johor Bahru.

Gwen Lee

Co-founder of photography space Deck
Director of Singapore International Photography Festival

Title: Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, or Knight of Arts and Letters
From: Mr Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore
When: Last month

Lee, 46, is recognised for consistently inviting French photographers to take part in the Singapore International Photography Festival and working closely with Voiloh! France Singapore Festival.

Previously, in Singapore, the knighthood was bestowed on actor-comedian Hossan Leong and the late playwright Kuo Pao Kun.



PHOTOS: CEMS, EMBASSY OF FRANCE IN SINGAPORE, HERBERT JULIAN, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION OF SINGAPORE, ST FILE, ST JOHN SINGAPORE/FACEBOOK

The Life List

Feted by foreigners

These 10 Singaporeans have done the country proud with prestigious titles from abroad



Eddino Abdul Hadi

Did you know that Singapore has its fair share of knights and lords? From Indonesian royal titles to French knighthood to Malaysian datuks, here are 10 Singaporeans from various backgrounds who have received foreign titles in recent years.

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Professor Tan Chorh Chuan

Chief health scientist at the Ministry of Health

Title: Knight of the French Order of the Legion of Honour
From: Mr Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore
When: April this year

The National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest French order of merit, founded in 1802 by French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Prof Tan was recognised for his pivotal role in Singapore's Covid-19 response and for his multiple bilateral exchanges with France on pandemic management.



Professor Leo Yee Sin

National Centre for Infectious Diseases executive director

Title: Knight of the French Order of the Legion of Honour
From: Mr Marc Abensour, Ambassador of France to Singapore
When: April this year

Prof Leo was honoured for playing an important role in France and Singapore's bilateral scientific working group on infectious diseases, which was set up in July 2020. She chaired the group's Singapore side.

Like Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, her title is the highest French order of merit.



Matilda Chong

Businesswoman

Title: Kanjeng Ayu Adipati, or princess
From: The royal family in the city of Surakarta, Indonesia
When: April 2018

The Surakarta court, recognised as one of Indonesia's heritage institutions, claims descent from the Mataram kingdom that ruled much of Java in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Ms Chong, 43, is the executive director of investment management group Lions of Asia. She was honoured for contributions to the economy of the Central Javanese city. Her father, Mr William Marie Chong, was given the title of Kanjeng Pangeran Adipati, or grand prince, two years earlier.



Ramli Sarip

Musician

Title: Darjah Pangkuan Seri Melaka or Companion Class II of the Exalted Order of Melaka
From: Then Melaka Governor Mohd Khalil Yaakob
When: 2013

The 69-year-old singer and songwriter (below, in a photo from last year), affectionately known as Papa Rock, is one of the elder statesmen of the Malay music scene in Singapore and Malaysia – with a career dating back to the late 1960s. His award from the Melaka authorities comes with the honorary title "Datuk".



Dr Teh Peng Hooi

Orthopaedic surgeon

Title: Knight of Justice within the Order of St John
From: Order of St John, a British royal order of chivalry
When: 2014

Dr Teh (foreground, far left) is the first person in Asia to be conferred this rank. When voluntary humanitarian organisation St John Singapore was elevated to the status of Priory in the global Order of St John, Dr Teh was installed as the First Prior. The status of Priory is conferred on the Order's longest established and most substantial organisations.



Peter Low

Musician

Title: Knight Commander under the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great
From: The Vatican
When: 2003

The choir master, who formed the Cathedral Choir of the Risen Christ in 1970, was 55 years old when he received one of the Vatican's highest awards for his services to the church in Singapore and the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See for Singapore, Cambodia and Thailand.

Edward Liu

Singapore's honorary consul to the Ivory Coast

Title: Chevalier (Knight) of National Order
From: Ivory Coast government
When: 2008

Mr Liu, 73, received his title from then Ivorian foreign minister, Mr Youssouf Bakayoko, during the latter's first official visit to Singapore.

The title is given to all Ivory Coast honorary consuls around the world.

Mr Liu, who was appointed as honorary consul in May 1999, is also the managing director of event organisers Conference & Exhibition Management Services.

