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MAY DAY

AWARDS

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COMRADE OF LABOUR

Gary Sim Teck Kher

Deputy General Secretary
Singapore Teachers' Union (STU)

Nominated by the Singapore Teachers' Union

Gary Sim Teck Kher is a strong advocate for improving the working conditions of Education Officers, establishing better support for casual employees, like relief and adjunct teachers, and increasing transparency surrounding workplace practices. He has raised these concerns at union events and Ministry of Education (MOE)-Singapore Teachers' Union (STU) dialogues, aiming to address existing wage disparities and prevent rising income inequalities. Given the escalating cost of living and its impact on workers and their families, Brother Gary has advocated for more openness in sharing salary information across different worker profiles, such as graduate, non-graduate, male, female, young and old, and rewarding older workers more generously through the Connect Plan.

Brother Gary actively recruits members at the school and union levels, participating in STU events where he passionately promotes the value of union membership to all teachers. As Deputy General Secretary of STU, he contributes ideas for recruitment drives and leads outreach efforts to branch officials and members, ensuring their concerns are heard and conveyed to the union. Always prepared for meetings, he champions initiatives that reflect the spirit of the Labour Movement.

Brother Gary has spoken at union events involving MOE Political Office Holders about workplace harassment, workload, mental health, and workplace safety for teachers. He collaborates with union staff to explore strategic solutions, helping STU initiatives like the teacher wellness counselling programme and legal clinic come to fruition. These efforts have diversified and expanded STU's services to attract new members while supporting the employer for mutually beneficial outcomes.

A supporter of the Company Training Committee initiative, Brother Gary encourages branch officials and members to participate in the Webinar Series, designed to help teachers develop lifelong workplace skills. He actively contributes ideas for managing workload and health, proposing workshops for teachers on handling difficult stakeholders. A lifelong learner, he serves as a role model for all union members.