

COMRADE OF LABOUR

Ezzy Chan Weng Cheong

Vice-President

Singapore Teachers' Union

Nominated by the Singapore Teachers' Union

Ezzy Chan Weng Cheong has long been a firm advocate of increases in the remuneration packages of education officers, more competitive rates for casual employees such as relief teachers and adjunct teachers, and more transparency regarding salary revisions across the different substantive grades of education officers.

He has raised these concerns at union events to clarify what more can be done to iron out existing wage differentials and prevent a spiralling of income inequality.

With the rising cost of living and its impact on workers and their families in mind, Brother Ezzy engaged NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How and union advisors to urge employers to be more open in the sharing of salary information across various profiles of workers. This includes being more progressive in rewarding older workers with a more ample disbursement of the Connect Plan – an incentive plan to encourage teachers to stay in the teaching service.

He proactively recruits members at the branch level and the union level. He participates at Singapore Teachers' Union (STU) events and speaks openly and passionately about the value of union membership to all profiles of teachers.

As STU vice-president, he contributes ideas towards the union's recruitment drive and takes the lead in reaching out to delegates and members alike. He ensures they are heard and relays their concerns and views to the union. Brother Ezzy is always prepared for meetings and continues to champion initiatives that embody the Labour Movement spirit. He has spoken out at union events involving Ministry of Education Political Office Holders regarding workplace harassment, workload, mental health and workplace safety for teachers.

He has also explored strategic solutions with union staff so that STU initiatives such as the teacher wellness counselling programme and the legal clinic may come to fruition. These initiatives are methods in which STU has diversified and grown to attract more members. These methods continue to support the employer so that all may reap win-win outcomes. Brother Ezzy is an ardent supporter of the Company Training Committee initiative. He encourages delegates and members to participate in the union's Adaptive Skills for Teachers Webinar Series, curated to help teachers grow lifelong workplace skills and be future-ready.

During the 2022 STU Workplan Seminar, he was an active contributor, proposing ideas to help teachers better manage their workload and health. Ideas he put forward for employers' consideration included a workshop for teachers on managing difficult stakeholders.

As a lifelong learner, Brother Ezzy is a role model for all union members. The union is proud to nominate him for the Comrade of Labour award.