



**THE
ENTREPRENEUR**
Annie Yap, 36

CEO of regional
recruitment agency
Global Manpower
Professionals
(GMP) Group

At just 28, Annie found herself being handed the reins of a growing recruitment company. Eight years later, she successfully guided it towards regional prominence; GMP Group now has branch offices in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and China, and counts DBS Bank, Hewlett-Packard, Keppel Shipyard and Nokia among its clients.

Under Annie's capable leadership, the company has clinched several accolades, including the Singapore Promising Brand Awards. Annie is last year's winner of the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award and Entrepreneur of the Year. A mother of two boys and an adopted daughter, this Nanyang Technological University alumna plays as hard as she works; the avid sports-lover is preparing for her first triathlon and is one of the role models for the Singapore Sports Council's Sport a New You campaign, aimed at encouraging women, especially those over 35, to lead a more active lifestyle.

WHAT IS THE DEFINING MOMENT OR EXPERIENCE IN YOUR CAREER?

Meeting Dr Giam Cheng Lan (the founder of GMP). She groomed me from the beginning, teaching me how to identify suppliers, look for partner agencies, and match the right customers with the right candidates. She led the company with great foresight and vision. And when she passed on from cancer, she made me realise that we only live once; it's not about how much you're worth in assets, but whether you enjoy life to the fullest, have great friends to support you, contribute to society and are a good mother to your children.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS MEAN TO YOU? Success is about the journey, not the destination. I am successful, but I still have a lot to learn, be it how to contribute more to the industry, or spend quality time with my kids and loved ones. My definition of success is being content with what I have, on my own terms.

DO YOU SEEK TO INSPIRE OTHERS? Yes. I practise that constantly, having been inspired by my father, who was a coffeeshop owner. Helping him as a young girl, I was exposed to people from all walks of life and learnt humility and contentment.