

Ambiga among four to receive UN award

KUALA LUMPUR — Activist Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan has been awarded the UN Award 2018 in recognition for her contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ambiga, the co-chair of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections, was previously chairman of the Bersih 2.0 electoral reforms group.

In March 2009, Ambiga received the US Secretary of State Award for International Women of Courage 2009.

Two years later, she was received the Chevalier de Legion d' Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) by the French government.

She was the president of the Malaysia Bar from March 2007 until March 2009.

Last month, Ambiga was appointed chairman of the *Malay Mail* Care Fund.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong presented the awards yesterday in conjunction with the 73rd Anniversary of the United Nations.

Other recipients were Datuk Ahmad Kamarulnajib Che Ibrahim of the National Ozone Unit of the Department of Environment,

Puan Sri Jean Ngau, co-founder of MyKasih Foundation, and foundation chairman Tan Sri Dr Ngau Boon Keat.

UN resident coordinator for Malaysia Stefan Priesner was also present.

The award honours the outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations that embody the underlying principles of Agenda 2030 in three categories — human rights and governance, leaving no one behind, and environmental sustainability.

“Human rights and SDGs are two sides of the same coin,” Priesner said.

“The SDGs provide the targets, planning and monitoring mechanisms while human rights arm us with the minimum standards, safeguards and legal backup to ensure that everybody benefits from the fruits of development.”

The UN Day, celebrated to commemorate the founding of the United Nations, was attended by ambassadors, high commissioners and representatives of various diplomatic missions in Malaysia as well as senior government officials and civil society representatives.



Ambiga, flanked by Liew and Priesner, after receiving her award.
— Picture by Miera Zulyana