

# GTA winners share keys to success

**PAUL BRENT**

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Work hard, be persistent, contemplate failure and be sure your idea doesn't "suck," potential entrepreneurs were told by five GTA winners of the Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards for 2011.

They shared their success stories with about 250 budding business owners at the North York Civic Centre in a business forum organized by the Association of Chinese Canadian Entrepreneurs (ACCE).

Stephen Chan, chief executive of Dapasoft Inc., a private Toronto information technology company, who won ACCE's Most Innovative award, said having a good business idea is paramount.

"If your idea sucks, don't do it," he advised.

"I go to all these mentor groups, they are all very sensitive, very kind, they are not going to tell you that your idea sucks."

A good idea — and hard work — drove Vincent Cheung, CEO and founder of [shapecollage.com](http://shapecollage.com), a website which allows people to display photos in interesting shapes. He won Best Startup award.

Ted Takounseun, a vice-president of Thai Indochine Trading Inc., said persistence was required to persuade Canadian supermarkets to stock its foreign-sourced foods. He took ACCE's Award of Merit.

Brian Chan, founder of C.J. Marketing Ltd., is the winner of the Most Progressive award, while Carl Teo, CEO of Markham-based Eco-Carrier, was also honoured.

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