

SP Alliance & Network

SP Alumni eNews

Oct 2023



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
RELISHING THE CHALLENGE
OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING**



Arman Bin Aman

Executive Manager, Building and Construction Authority

Diploma in Interior Design, 2005

EMBRACING VERSATILITY AND CONTINUOUS LEARNING

Striving to be a “jack of all trades,” SP Alumni Arman Bin Aman enjoys the challenge of learning new skills and solving problems by examining them from different perspectives.

How SP shaped his way of thinking

Arman’s fascination with architectural elements and a desire to nurture his creative skills led him to apply for Singapore Polytechnic’s (SP) Diploma in Interior Design.

The course was the ideal platform for exploring different design styles and enhancing user experiences. It allowed him to showcase his creativity without the traditional constraints of architecture.

When reminiscing about his time in SP, Arman highlights two lecturers, Mr Liang Lit How and current Architecture & the Built Environment (ABE) Senior Director Mr Faris Akbar who have left a lasting impression on him. Mr Liang would emphasise how staying professional despite the pressure from client interactions would help shape one’s career. Mr Faris often shared design philosophies, giving students a broader understanding of how things work while pushing them to think outside the figurative box.

In one of the SP modules, Arman applied this deconstructed way of thinking when tasked to design an innovative sports store. “I focused on including user experiences in the shop. A key part of the design was a running track, where customers can try out the shoes and run within the shop.” This creative approach garnered praise from his lecturers, and Arman has since incorporated this way of thinking into both his personal and professional lives.

The sky’s the limit

Post-graduation, Arman embarked on a six-year venture in the private sector. George Santayana’s quote, “only the dead have seen the end of war,” inspired him to explore different career opportunities before jumping straight into jobs within the interior design industry.

How he interprets and applies this quote to his career is to “always pursue new things in life, where the only time you end this process is when you pass on.”

With this guiding principle, he tried out various industries, from event management to scuba diving instruction. “During those 6 years, I learnt many skills, from customer management, event management, how to train others in safety procedures, managing a store, and many more people skills.” This particular set of skills would later prove to be very useful for his career after his move to the public sector.

Finding stability in architectural regulation

In his late 20s, the lack of long-term career progression opportunities that resulted from industry-hopping started to gnaw at him. He decided to take the leap and exit the private sector, by joining the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). Initially, Arman’s department was very versatile, dealing with multiple different projects at the time. “There was a broad range of tasks to cover, so the work was different day to day. I am used to doing things which are not fixed, so learning on the job was nothing new to me and this ability to be versatile helped me navigate my new roles better.”

Now 12 years in, he has worked on various projects at BCA and his unique skillset honed in the private sector helped immensely. “One of the key skills I carried over from the private sector are my social skills, which help me interact with management confidently and present my ideas to various stakeholders.”

Bridging academia and industry

Today, Arman oversees BCA’s collaboration study with SP on granite fines—a by-product of quarrying— with the aim of finding sustainable uses for this material. This project showcases the potential for academia-industry partnerships in addressing real-world challenges and advancing industry trends.

He also recommends that all businesses and statutory boards tap into the research potential of SP students. With the ever-changing needs of every industry, he explains how many businesses stand to benefit from highly-trained students with the relevant skills to increase productivity and reduce costs in the workplace.

One example is how quickly SP students grasp Robotic Processes Automation (RPA) skills and apply them to their work. “By getting exposure to RPA during their school years, these graduates require less training when they later enter the workforce. Companies can benefit from lower training costs and graduates also benefit by being able to secure a job faster.”

Never Stop Learning

To future SP alumni, Arman advocates a commitment to continuous learning. “Stay humble, recognise the value in every individual’s knowledge, and seize different opportunities for growth.”

In a world where change is constant, Arman’s philosophy of being a “jack of all trades” reminds us that versatility is a valuable asset, and the pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong endeavour.



Not letting past failures determine his future

With his GCE level 'N' results, Mohamed Nazirudeen Abdul Rahman could only enroll in ITE to pursue mechatronic engineering. However, determined to succeed, Nazirudeen excelled and obtained a GPA of more than 3.5 points there. This result secured him a place in the second year of Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Thanks to his hard work, he was given the opportunity to continue his studies part-time at a local university. Now 32, he works as the operations manager at Applied Materials Southeast Asia, managing a team of 24 employees.

Source: Berita Harian, 17 Sep 2023

First Malay woman to become a commercial pilot, Farhain Abu Bakar is now Captain

The first Malay woman to become a commercial pilot in Singapore, Farhain Abu Bakar, was promoted to Captain for Scoot Airlines. Her promotion holds extra significance as the aviation sector is a male-dominated one. At 29, seven years ago, Ms Farhain was featured in the local newspaper, The Straits Times, as the first Malay female commercial pilot in Singapore. According to the report, she received her private pilot's license from the Singapore Youth Aviation Club (SYFC) in 2004 while studying at Singapore Polytechnic.



Source: Berita Mediacorp, 30 Sep 2023

Students exchange views on regional growth issues at Youth Model ASEAN Conference

Hosted by Singapore Polytechnic (SP), this year's Youth Model ASEAN Conference took place from October 2 to 4, gathering 160 local and foreign students to discuss issues affecting the development of the region. Themed "Promoting Inclusive Growth in ASEAN", the simulation conference provided a platform for young people to discuss different topics and better understand the cultures of ASEAN countries, explained SP Diploma in Biomedical Sciences student Deng Min (22) who served as the secretary-general.



Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 2 Oct 2023



1st row (seated L to R): Eng Yan Lee, Director (Specialist Services), Urban Redevelopment Authority; Teo Hui Ying, Deputy Director, Singapore Land Authority; Lim Chong Yew Francis, Director, FranzWood ASA Pte Ltd; Er. Loo Ching Nong, Specialist (Sustainable Design), SP; Chan Choi Ung, Specialist (Sustainable Design), SP.

2nd row (standing L to R): Anthony Au, Technical Specification & Business Development Manager, MC-Bauchemie Singapore Pte Ltd; Dr. Liu Qishan, Manager, SP; Lim Mei Ling, Associate, QS Consultants Pte Ltd; Rudy Ang, Course Chair, SP; Tan Yong Kwang, General Manager, Pintary Foundations Pte Ltd; Cromer Teo, Director, City Surveyors Pte Ltd; Dr. Liu Kao Xue, Senior Lecturer, SP.

SP Civil Engineering Alumni Engagement

The annual Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Civil Engineering Alumni Engagement took place on 14 September 2023. Held at SP Graduates' Guild (SPGG), SP alumni and staff gathered for a fruitful sharing session, covering recent developments, changes to the course, latest trends and happenings in the Built Environment industry. Over lunch, SP alumni reminisced about their school days. They revisited heart-warming memories while networking and discussing potential academic and industry collaborations, such as internship placements, Integrated Projects, and prize sponsorships. SP looks forward to the fruition of such partnerships and to holding similar events in the future that benefit students, staff, and alumni.

8th WinGD & SMA Technical Night 2023



On 7 September 2023, over 180 industry guests and alumni attended the 8th WinGD & SMA Technical Night 2023 held at Singapore Polytechnic's LT1A. Jointly organised by the Singapore Maritime Academy, Singapore Polytechnic (SMA/SP) and Winterthur Gas Diesel Singapore (WinGD), the event saw both industry professionals and academia sharing and discussing the theme of the night, the "Future of Sustainable Shipping".

The Opening Address was given by Captain Chatur Wahyu, acting Director of SMA and Mr Volkmar Galke, Executive Director Sales of WinGD respectively. We were also very honoured to have Mr Goh Chung Hun, General Manager (Fleet) in Pacific International Lines Pte Ltd (PIL) to give the Keynote Speech on the topic "A Container Shipping Line's Perspective to Decarbonisation". Mr Goh is a prominent SMA alumnus and also a member of our Maritime Industry Advisory Committee. Mr Goh brings with him more than 30 years of seafaring, fleet management, technical, marine operations, class and regulatory experience.

The Maritime Industry is indeed a dynamic industry with many great innovations and is future-driven. Speakers from WinGD shared on interesting topics such as 12X92DF Service Experience, Future Fuels Development, and VCR Technology.

This annual technical event is the ideal platform to allow maritime professionals from the various sectors to come together and share ideas. Our industry guests and SMA alumni had an engaging Question and Answer session as they were able to gather valuable insights from the speakers.



Left: Captain Chatur Wahyu, Ag. Director SMA, Mr Goh Chung Hun, General Manager (Fleet), Pacific International Lines Pte Ltd (PIL), Ms Treanne Hübscher-Ly, Senior Manager Brand & Marketing, WinGD, Dr. Andreas Schmid, GM Technology Development, WinGD, Mr Volkmar Galke, Executive Director Sales, WinGD, Mr Konrad Rass, Head Customer Operations Support, WinGD and Mr Marcel Ott, GM Application Engineering & Documentation, WinGD.

On-Campus Privileges



SPORTS FACILITIES

Alumni access hours:

GYM@POOL

Weekdays : 12pm - 4pm | 6pm - 9pm

Saturday : 9am - 7pm

SWIMMING POOL

Weekdays : 9am - 4pm

Saturday : 4pm - 7pm

Please note your SP Alumni e-card and any form of identification is required for verification purposes. SP Sports Facilities may be closed due to curriculum or events without prior notice.



SP LIBRARY

SP Alumni eCard holder is entitled to 20% off annual library membership fees.

Library membership is required to enter SP Library.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

OPENING HOURS:

[Click here](#) for more information.

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES AWAITS, CAREER AND FURTHER EDUCATION FAIR



25 October 2023 (Wed)
10.30am - 5.30pm

Singapore Polytechnic Convention Centre



SP Alliance & Network

Off-Campus Privileges



ARTEA

10% discount

Terms and conditions apply



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES' GUILD

10% discount for ala-carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)

Terms and conditions apply



TUAN YUAN PORK RIBS SOUP

5% discount when you spend above \$50 before GST

Terms and conditions apply



CRISAL SEAFOOD

15% off on LACTOSEAFOOD

Terms and conditions apply



LOCKDOWN

10% off the usual retail price
1 pass for 1 gameroom discount

Terms and conditions apply



THE ESCAPE ARTIST

10% discount for the entire bill

Terms and conditions apply



THE KETTLE GOURMET

5% discount when you quote "HAPPY5"

Terms and conditions apply

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Exploring new career opportunities?

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NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

Just graduated from SP < 6 months ago and feeling like life's thrown you a curved ball?

Contact our friendly SP counsellors for short-term counselling support if you need.

Email SP: contactus@sp.edu.sg with subject 'Requesting for Counselling'



CONNECT WITH US

Education & Career Pathways | Industry Insights | Career Coaching

Email us at ecg@sp.edu.sg for an appointment

THE SECRETS OF INSURANCE POLICIES KNOW WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW

Friday, 1 December 2023 Waived

7:00pm to 8:00pm SPGG Grand Ballroom



ISSAC TAN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
INVESTMENT ADVISORY
IFAST GLOBAL MARKETS



CASON TEO
INVESTMENT ADVISOR
IFAST GLOBAL MARKETS



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC



Journeying with you beyond SP

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