



11 poly grads win places in local medical schools this year

Singapore Polytechnic graduates (from left) Peh Ting Yong, 23, Kimberly Lim, Alicia Yip and Sylvia Phua, all 20, and Foo Yu Wah, 22, scored places in NUS' medical school. Fellow SP graduate Kenny Sung (not pictured), 20, gained admission to NTU's medical school. All six hold diplomas in biotechnology or biomedical science. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

AMELIA TENG

The local universities are gradually accepting more polytechnic graduates into their medicine courses.

At least 11 of them scored places this year in the medical schools of the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

These numbers have grown since NUS' Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine took in its first two polytechnic graduates 10 years ago.

Of those accepted this year, six are from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) – the highest number from a single polytechnic to be accepted for the local medicine degree courses.

Five of them are enrolled in NUS' Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and one went to NTU's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

The NUS and NTU medicine courses are for undergraduates, while Duke-NUS Medical

School takes in students with at least an undergraduate degree in any field except medicine.

Ms Mah Mon Moey, SP's deputy director for the School of Chemical and Life Sciences, told The Straits Times that it "does not design courses specifically for medical school", adding, however, that "our curricula and learning experience lend themselves well to those applying to medical school".

Since 2010, SP has produced 27 graduates – many of whom read biomedical sciences – who enrolled in medicine degree courses locally.

Besides the five SP students, NUS' medical school also accepted three graduates from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), and one each from Republic Polytechnic (RP) and Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP).

To date, at least 13 NP graduates, another four each from RP and Temasek Polytechnic, and another three from NYP, have studied medicine locally.

The medicine courses at NUS and NTU admit about 300 and 120 students respectively a year, with the majority coming from junior colleges. Between 11 per cent and 15 per cent of applicants make it to medical schools here.

Ms Mah said that SP's biomedical science and biotechnology courses cover topics such as monitoring and managing diseases, research in diagnostics and cure, and the production of pharmaceuticals.

Students learn knowledge and skills that "form a good foundation for a career in the biomedical science, pharmaceutical and health-care sectors", she said.

Polytechnic graduates said they knew it would not be easy to enter medical school. SP biotechnology graduate Peh Ting Yong's application to study medicine at NUS in 2015 was rejected.

His time as a combat medic during national service, however, made him more certain that he wanted to be a doctor, so he applied again this year, and was successful.

"As a first-aider, I came across patients with severe bleeding, allergic reactions, spinal injuries, for instance... I wanted to learn more to know what to do in these situations," said the 23-year-old.

SP biomedical science graduate Kimberley Lim said that when she chose to enrol in the polytechnic, she knew her chances of getting into medical school would be "way slimmer".

With an O-level score of six, she was more than qualified to study in a junior college, but she wanted to pursue her interest in the health-care sector.

"The A levels would be too general... My poly course exposed me to a lot of modules such as immunology, basic anatomy and biochemistry," said the 20-year-old who will read medicine at NUS this month. "Of course medicine will be more in-depth, but I feel like I've had a small introduction to it."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 08 MAY 2017

From street fighter to top S'pore Poly graduate

Growing up, Mr Muhammad Alfiz Kambali never took an interest in his studies. Due to troubles at home, he often found himself mixing with the wrong crowd and was a fixture in street fights during his teenage years.

"Fights over various issues were common between my parents. The atmosphere was tense at home and I sought comfort in bad company," said the former Bedok South Secondary School student. "Street fights served as a means to channel my anger."

Mr Alfiz, now 28, has come a long way since, emerging as one of the top graduates at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) this year.

Last week, he graduated from the integrated events and project management diploma course with a perfect 4.0 grade point average (GPA), and was awarded the Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal and Cityneon Events Gold Medal.

"I am not as young as my classmates, and I knew what I wanted to achieve when I enrolled in this course," he said. "For me, I did not have the luxury of time to repeat or go back to school again. I knew that I had to put in more effort compared with my secondary school days in order to succeed."

Mr Alfiz left secondary school with an O-level certificate in 2006, but did not fare well at the national exam. He needed to re-take some subjects in order to qualify for a polytechnic course. Finding it troublesome to do so, he decided to work instead.

For two years before his national service commitment as a firefighter, he took up various jobs such as sorting letters and parcels, as well as working part-time at a coffee shop in Beach Road. After NS, he continued to work for another year.

Desiring a better future for himself and his family, he eventually decided to go back to school.

At 22, he did a Higher Nitec course in business studies (events management) at the Institute of Technical Education, where he graduated with a perfect GPA of 4.0.

Mr Alfiz was motivated to further his studies, after seeing how hard his father worked to support the family. "I thought that I could do my part and help him," he said.

He took up the integrated events and project management diploma course at SP

in 2014, at the age of 25.

Unfortunately, his father died of an illness before Mr Alfiz could begin his polytechnic education. "It did affect me, and I was not sure if I should carry on with my further studies," he said.

"However, my family and friends encouraged me, and I carried on."

Despite receiving offers from Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University, Mr Alfiz plans to work first before pursuing further studies.

He said work experience is important in the events management line.

"Working also allows me to better utilise the skills I have picked up in the classroom," he added.

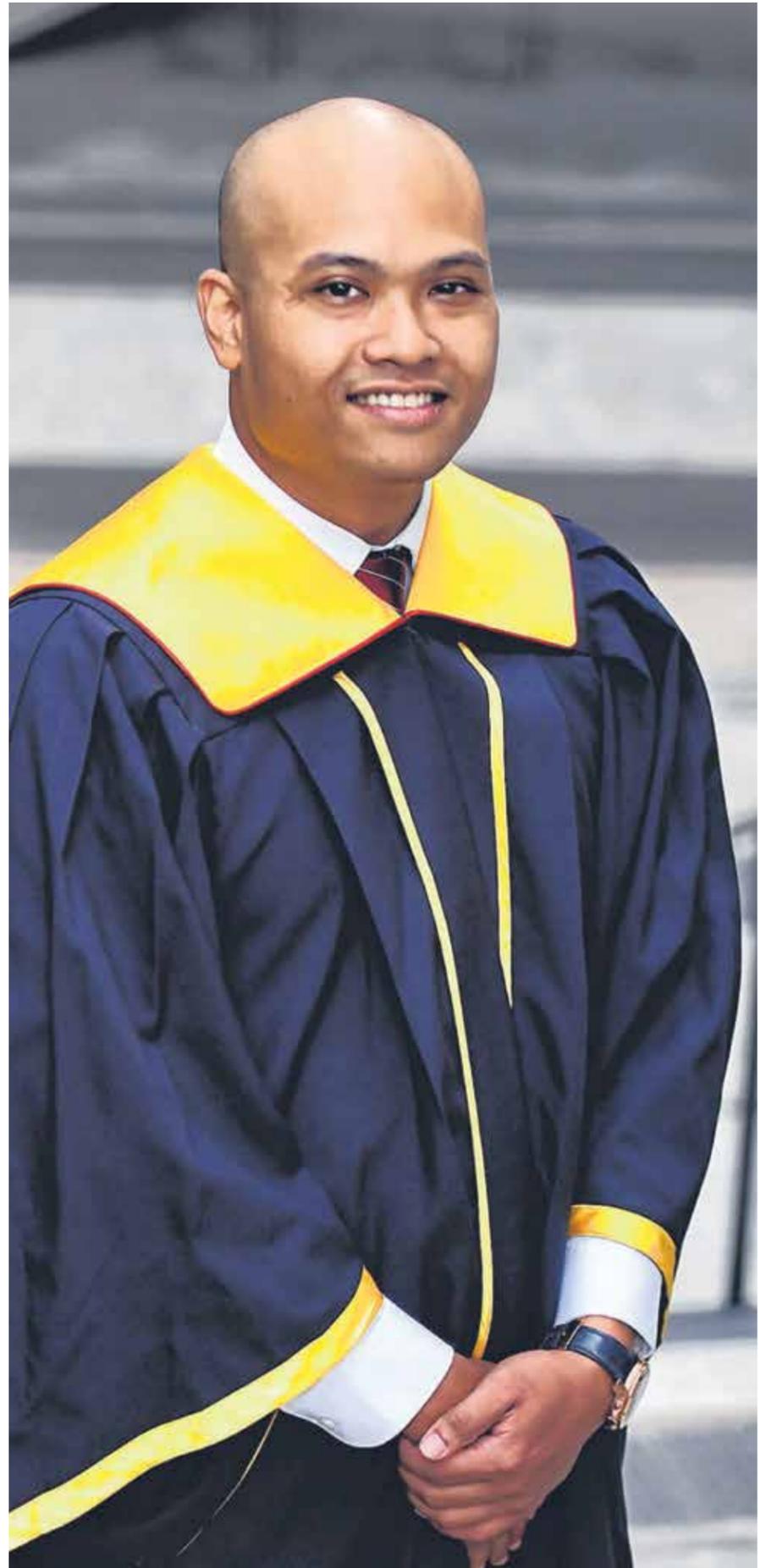
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STAYING FOCUSED

I am not as young as my classmates, and I knew what I wanted to achieve when I enrolled in this course. For me, I did not have the luxury of time to repeat or go back to school again. I knew that I had to put in more effort compared with my secondary school days in order to succeed.

MR MUHAMMAD ALFIZ KAMBALI, on starting a diploma course at SP in 2014, at the age of 25.



As a teenager, Mr Muhammad Alfiz Kambali was not interested in school and often got into street fights. Last week, the 28-year-old graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and was awarded the Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal and Cityneon Events Gold Medal. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

THE NEW PAPER | 02 MAY 2017

Course made him more confident, articulate

CALVIN YANG



Mr Mohamed Najulah, who was born with brittle bone disease, said the Polytechnic Foundation Programme at Singapore Polytechnic helped nurture his speaking, writing and presentation skills. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

He had opted to do an engineering diploma, but was told during a medical screening that the course might be too strenuous for him.

Mr Mohamed Najulah, who was born with brittle bone disease and uses a wheelchair, decided to take up a business information technology diploma instead.

The former Queensway Secondary Normal (Academic) student was keen to explore how business and information technology could be used to help others. He enrolled in Singapore Polytechnic as part

of the pioneer cohort of the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP).

That turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The 21-year-old is now one of the poly's top students and will graduate with a grade point average of 3.89 out of 4.0.

Mr Najulah, who will be awarded the Chua Chor Teck gold medal, said he could not have come so far without the PFP, which allows students to skip the O levels to do a one-year programme that prepares them for a diploma course.

"It allowed me to transition seamlessly

into my course," he said. "Without this alternative pathway, I would have to take my O levels, and I may not do as well to meet the entry requirements."

The programme helped nurture his speaking, writing and presentation skills. "Going through the PFP allowed me to be more confident, outspoken and articulate during presentations and group work."

The aspiring software developer will pursue an information systems degree at the Singapore Management University in August.

"Application development is not restricted by physical capabilities, and provides the freedom and ability to convert what I think mentally into reality," he said.

Mr Najulah described his poly experience as a roller-coaster ride, filled with ups and downs. But he will always remember the help offered by his peers.

"As I am a wheelchair user, I would never forget the moments when my friends and classmates assisted me to get to my lessons and lectures," he said. "It might be a simple act, but it meant a lot to me."

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 03 MAY 2017

捡废弃零件“自制”电脑

14岁那年，李为正要求父亲买一台电脑，父亲建议他以旧电子零件“自制”一台，节省开销。经过一番摸索，他果然成功，而这台桌上型电脑一直用到他升上理工学院。

新加坡理工学院毕业生李为正（20岁）是“动手达人”。他从小就充满好奇心，拆开家里电器，探索内部乾坤，经过多年的尝试和实践，练就就将废料化为实用物品的本领。他说：“四五岁时，我拆开打字机和电脑，害父亲差点无法完成工作，让他好气又好笑。父亲曾是工程师，我从小向他学习修理电插头和插座。我10岁那年开始捡被丢弃的电器，找出可用零件，组装一部稳压器。升上工院后，校内的电子垃圾桶，成了我的寻宝处。我于是收集电子零件，组装成电脑，供自己用或送给有需要的人。”

李为正说，父亲是单亲家长，后来转行当一名货仓经理，

家里还得负担祖母医药费。“组装电脑是想减轻父亲的负担。过程中，有几次引起小火，也轻微触电过一两次，但通过工院课程掌握电子学知识，已懂得如何安全地组装电器。”

他当年在O水准会考考获7分佳绩，原可报读初级学院，但他选择新加坡工院的电脑工程课程，并以优异成绩毕业，是本届“李光耀奖”得主，已被南洋理工大学电脑工程系录取。“我擅长动手实践，工院学习模式较适合我。父亲原本希望我读商业系，但他看到我对学习乐此不疲，成绩优秀，如今已改观，鼓励我朝兴趣发展。”



李为正喜欢动手修电器及用废弃零件组装电脑。（曾道明摄）

◀ Summary of Chinese article

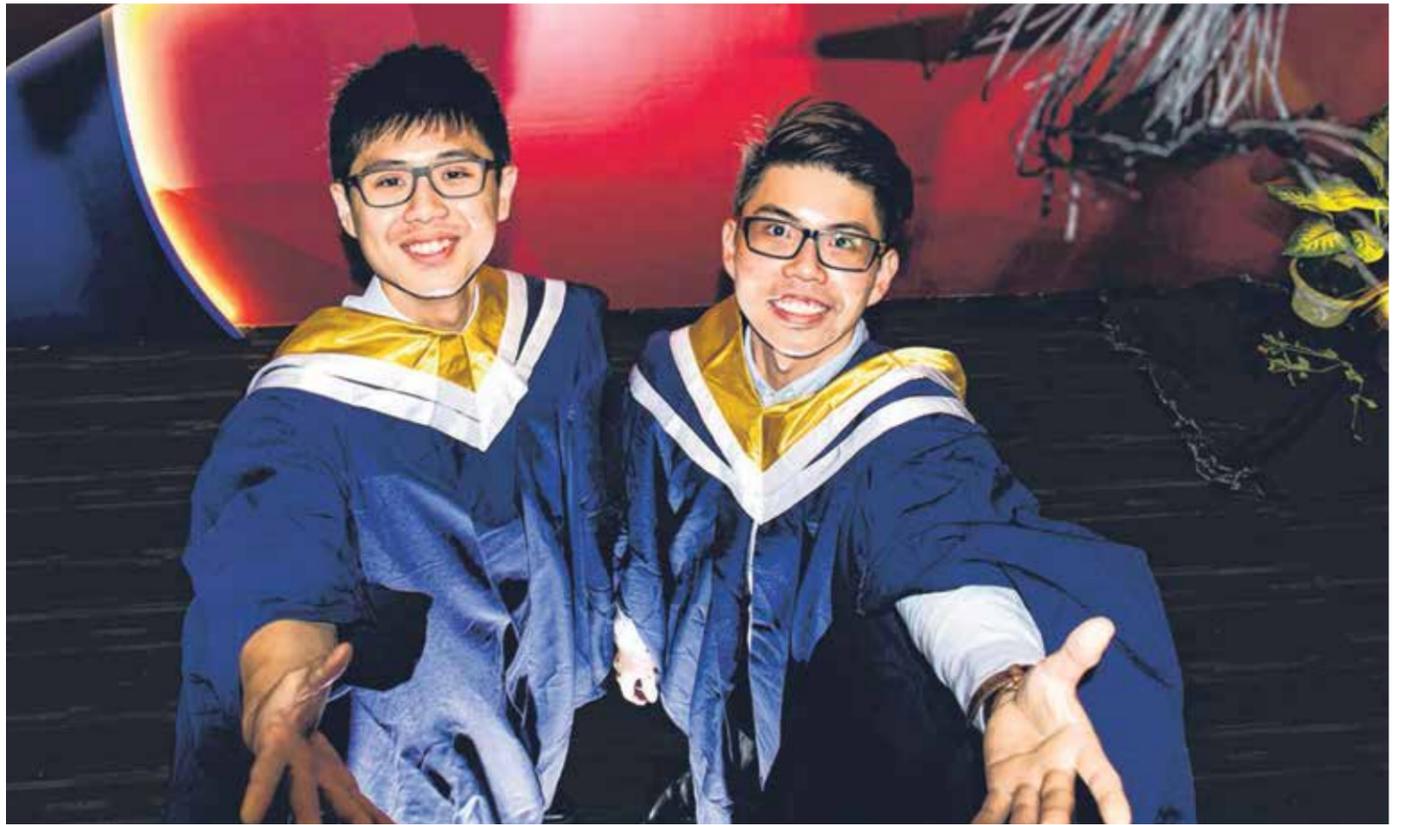
Recycling used parts to create his own computer

Since young, SP Institutional Medallist and Diploma in Computer Engineering graduate Benedict Lee was a curious boy and would take apart various electrical devices and piece them back together. During his schooling days, Benedict's family was financially challenged and his father couldn't afford to buy him a laptop. Benedict then took it upon himself to scavenge for used electronic parts and recycled them to build his own computer. He scored 7 points for his O levels and decided to pursue his passion in SP. Benedict will be furthering his studies in NTU.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 01 AUGUST 2016

From Normal stream to PhD course

Two graduates share their journeys from the Normal stream to studying for PhDs



NTU graduates Ernest Tan (left) and Nigel Tan were once in the Normal stream. Their hard work since then has paid off and they are now studying for their PhDs and working as research engineers at the same time, Ernest with Airbus and Nigel with the university. PHOTO: NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

“

FURTHER THAN EXPECTED

I think what sustained me through these years was my curiosity in computer engineering... Once I was in university, I just wanted to see how far I could go. I never thought in a million years that I would go to NTU. ”

MR ERNEST TAN, 28, a PhD student who was an EM3 and Normal Technical student before moving on to Singapore Polytechnic and Nanyang Technological University.

“

PERSISTENCE NEEDED

When I feel like giving up, I will now look at what I have been through and continue to work harder. Somethings take a lot of time but we need to be persistent and try to achieve. ”

MR NIGEL TAN, 26, a full-time research engineer in NTU and a part-time PhD student in Material Engineering.

MUNEERAH AB RAZAK

Mr Ernest Tan, 28, a PhD student, never thought he would get this far.

The former EM3 and Normal (Technical) student did not bother studying much as he had no interest in the subjects he was doing.

But it all changed in his two years at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) as a student in Communications Technology.

He said: “I played a lot of computer games then so I didn’t mind learning more about computers.”

His interest pushed him to believe that he could continue into polytechnic, where he eventually earned a Diploma in Computer Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

With a jump in the learning curve at SP, he was on the verge of failing his modules.

“I think what sustained me through these years was my curiosity in computer engineering.”

The three years of hard work bore fruit as he was accepted into Nanyang Technological University (NTU) one semester before polytechnic graduation.

Mr Tan said: “Once I was in uni, I just wanted to see how far I could go. I never thought in a million years that I would go to NTU.”

Determined, he maintained good grades in NTU. His final-year project (FYP), determining an algorithm for brain signals when a person recognises another person’s picture, was a turning point for Mr Tan.

His FYP supervisor saw the potential in him to go further and linked him up with

aerospace firm Airbus for an internship.

As part of the Industrial Postgraduate Programme introduced by the Economic Development Board in 2011, Mr Tan was able to enrol in NTU’s PhD in Computer Engineering course as well as work to gain industry experience.

He is now a research engineer at Airbus, working on improving the use of radio frequencies for aeronautical communications.

“We have to find our interest, put in our best effort and keep trying. After having come so far, it has made me believe that I can still carry on.”

He is among the 9,107 students graduating from NTU this year, with more than 6,000 receiving bachelor’s degrees and 3,000 getting graduate degrees.

The first of 18 graduation ceremonies was held last Monday at the Nanyang Auditorium, with the last to be held tomorrow.

Also taking the long road to success was Mr Nigel Tan, 26, a full-time research engineer in NTU and a part-time PhD student in Material Engineering.

During the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) preparations, Mr Tan was unable to focus as his family had to downgrade to a two-room rental flat due to his father’s business going bankrupt.

The eldest of three children, Mr Tan felt compelled to work but realised that he could not until he was 14.

He did not do well for his PSLE and entered the Normal (Academic) stream. His parents could not find stable jobs and later divorced.

At 14, he became a part-time chef in a fast-food chain while studying to support his mother and two younger sisters

financially.

Despite having so much on his plate, he topped his N-level cohort at Marsiling Secondary School.

He entered SP to pursue a Diploma in Chemical Process but, again, his journey was not a smooth one.

“I was struggling so much with poly that I felt like giving up and working. My mother encouraged me, saying that if I could top the N levels, I could do it again. I just have to continue with the same attitude I had then.”

He ended up doing well enough in polytechnic to enter university.

Mr Tan had at first wanted to work immediately after national service. However, after working for a year, he realised that he needed a degree to go far professionally.

Armed with his savings, a bank loan and a Ministry of Education bursary, he entered NTU in 2013 as a student in Material Science and Engineering.

Assistant Professor Terry Steele of NTU saw his potential and encouraged him to continue on to postgraduate studies.

Mr Tan was initially worried about funding his studies but found out that he could apply to be a Graduate Research Officer as he had attained a first-class honours for his bachelor’s degree this year.

This allows him to work full-time and study part-time in NTU.

He is grateful for the support from his family, friends and teachers.

Mr Tan said: “When I feel like giving up, I will now look at what I have been through and continue to work harder. Some things take a lot of time but we need to be persistent and try to achieve.”

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 09 MAY 2016

What drives top poly grads

POLYTECHNICS ARE IN THE THICK OF GRADUATION SEASON AND THE STRAITS TIMES FEATURES SOME OF THEIR TOP ACHIEVERS



Ms Choy, who graduated with a diploma in maritime business, has applied to NTU's maritime studies degree course, but is still undecided whether to study or work first. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG



EAGER TO GAIN EXPERIENCE

I think the diploma is good enough for me to venture out to work and there are many opportunities, even without a degree.

MS CHOY YIN SHAN

Diploma opens up options, opportunities

AMELIA TENG

As a child, Ms Choy Yin Shan was always curious about ships.

"How do ships made of steel float on water? Where do the goods in ships go to?" she wondered. It was later in secondary school that her teachers told her about the maritime industry and Singapore's role as one of the world's busiest ports.

The former Yuan Ching Secondary School student decided to enrol herself in Singapore Polytechnic's (SP) maritime business course after her O levels, despite qualifying for junior college.

"I heard that polytechnic was more fun than

junior college. My parents let me choose what I wanted to do based on interest," said Ms Choy, who graduated this year with a grade point average of 3.8.

The 20-year-old daughter of a machinist and a housewife was also the valedictorian for the graduation ceremony last Thursday.

Her older brother is studying mechanical engineering at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Her three years at SP have given her an insight into the operations management that goes on at ports and taught her how container space on board a ship is managed.

She also picked up knowledge in electronic commerce and maritime law along the way.

A six-month internship with a shipping reg-

istration company during her second year gave her the chance to help out with events in the maritime industry as a training coordinator.

She has applied to NTU's maritime studies degree course, but is undecided on her plans, even though some of her peers have already chosen the university route.

"I am still thinking whether to study or work first. I want to gain more knowledge and further my interest in this field," said Ms Choy, who hopes to work in the oil or ship management sector.

"I think the diploma is good enough for me to venture out to work and there are many opportunities, even without a degree."

"I believe that skills are more important and pay will rise with experience."

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THE NEW PAPER | 08 MAY 2017

Poly grads: Work first, degree later

These top students from Singapore Polytechnic's graduating cohort of 2017 would rather gain experience first



(Clockwise from bottom left) Miss Tracy Ong, Miss Esther Tan and Miss Chong Han Lyn. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

JULIA TAN

They are top graduates from Singapore Polytechnic's (SP) graduating cohort of 5,600 this year.

Yet they will not be pursuing a degree anytime soon.

They have chosen to work first to gain industry experience.

Miss Esther Tan, 24, and Miss Chong Han Lyn, 20, are Institutional Medallists.

Miss Tracy Ong, 19, won the Batey Scholar Award, and was mentored under brand guru Ian Batey, who came up with the concept of the Singapore Girl for Singapore Airlines.

Miss Chong, who is working with media agency Starcom, said she does not feel that a degree is necessary for her career in the industry.

The former media and communication student said: "A degree might matter when it comes to promotion.

"But my company has directors who do not have degrees and they are

on the same level as degree holders."

Miss Ong also studied media and communication and did a four-month internship with advertising agency Arcade.

She said: "My internship experience made me realise that you do not need studies to get you far. You just need to learn fast and adapt.

VALUABLE

"That makes you more valuable than someone who holds a degree but does not have the skills nor the ability to adapt quickly."

Miss Tan, who studied creative writing for TV and new media, was made an assistant director during her internship at production company Big 3 Media.

No other intern had taken on the role before.

She said: "Since my company gave me a foot into the industry and people are willing to invest trust in me, I think working first is a good path to take."

Miss Tan added that the compa-

ny's culture is quite good.

The role challenged her to step out of her comfort zone, and Miss Tan joked that she even developed a scary alter ego in the demanding production field.

The graduates are not ruling out university completely, but may do so to explore other fields of study, such as visual communications or film.

Miss Chong said that pursuing a degree appealed to her because she enjoys learning.

She said: "You can learn on your own but it will take a lot of discipline.

"University still gives you a platform to expand your knowledge."

But all three are happy where they are now.

Miss Chong said: "School is always there, but the job may not always be there.

"If you let go of your job, it may not come back to you."

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LIANHE WANBAO | 08 NOVEMBER 2016



王佳慧 报道
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若没有一纸大学文凭，理工生的出路，是否就不比大学生宽广？

新加坡社会向来重视大学文凭，“要成功就要先有大学文凭”的思想，已在许多国人的脑海里生根。父母为孩子规划未来时，也总以考到大学文凭为目标，理工学院的大专

文凭，始终只是次等选择。

许多家长认为，孩子若没有大学文凭，前途将会受限。

但社会观念和环境都在转变中。

记者采访后发现，越来越多的人开始走不一样的路。他们优先培养一技之

长，掌握技能后就踏入社会工作，即便不考大学，也能找到一片天。

本期《大特写》，记者采访了学生、家长、名校长、辅导员和企业家，探讨若没有一纸大学文凭，理工生出路是否依然光明？

我是理工生，不急升大学

只要有理想 不怕文凭小



理工学院一些科系截分点不输初院

据最新资料，好些理工学院科系，截分点不输初院。2016年教育部数据显示，初院六科目L1R5截分点（Cut-off points）介于3至20分，凡考20分以下就可报考初院。

理工学院是根据五科目（L1R4）收生。换句话说，分数在10分以下的都有机会升初院，但

许多人自愿选择报读理工学院。2016年，新加坡理工学院的生物医药科学课程，截分点为七分，也是所有理工学院课程中第二低的截分点。

以义安理工学院的国际商业课程为例，该课程截分点为六分，保持从2011年以来所有理工学院课程的最低截分点纪录。

理工生毕业后可参与在职培训计划，不必考取大学文凭，就能与合适雇主配对，获取工作机会。（档案照）

◀ Summary of Chinese article

Poly graduates not pressured to enter university

SP's Diploma in Biomedical Science is one of the courses with the lowest ELR2B2 scores among all the poly courses.

Students who graduate from poly now have many pathways open to them, some of these include heading to university, starting their own business or heading into the industry. An increasing number of poly students are choosing to work after graduating from a poly and more students place greater emphasis on work experience rather than a university degree.

SHIN MIN DAILY NEWS | 14 APRIL 2017

读工程系 家人反对 女生考佳绩 成全系状元

林佳敏 报道
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巾帼不让须眉！尽管家人反（图/新加坡理工学院提供）对，女生执意上理工学院念工程系，还以近乎满分佳绩打败全系的男生，成为状元，考获奖学金。

20岁的林佳敏就读新加坡理工学院的能源系统与管理系，来临的五月将以近乎满分的成绩毕业，是本科状元。

因为热爱物理和受到毕业于电子工程系的哥哥影响，林佳敏自中三就认定要进入新加坡理工学院，并修读这个课程。

林佳敏娓娓道出，母亲和毕业于工程系的阿姨都认为，女生读工程系非常辛苦，这个课程并不适合她，所以两人一开始不支持她的决定。

“我以行动证明我的志愿。在中三和中四时，我的物理成绩都是A，所以成功说服母亲和阿姨让我报读这个科系。”

据了解，和她同系的有约60名学生，其中有约20名是女生。

虽然就读以男生居多的工程系，林佳敏并不畏惧，她抱着对该科系的热忱，力求突破，并且喜欢尝试解决难题。

“我认为男生能完成的事，女生也同样能够做

到。我希望有更多女生报读工程系，未来成为出色的工程师。”

获颁新加坡理工学院工程系奖学金的她，不仅成绩优异，也活跃于校内活动和课外活动。

除了是校内的天文学会副主席，她也是学生领袖，课余时间也练习击剑。

7岁丧父 母抚养3姐弟 她打工减轻母负担

7岁丧父，母亲独自抚养三姐弟，她为减轻母亲负担打兼职工。

林佳敏认为，母亲一人扛起整个家不容易，因此在中四毕业后就积极打工尝试不同工作。

她曾在大型购物中心当销售助理以及在工厂当文员，希望能够自食其力，减轻母亲负担。

她透露，目前已被本地两所大学录取，在等待开课之际，她在一家生产微晶片的公司工作，发挥所长。

她希望在未来能够专于清洁和再生能源领域，并且为我国迈向打造智慧国，尽一份力。

►新加坡理工学院能源系统与管理课程毕业生林佳敏。
(图/新加坡理工学院提供)



▲ Summary of Chinese article

Female student majors in Engineering despite objections from family

SP's Diploma in Energy Systems and Management Course Medallist, Joanna Lum, chose an engineering course despite objections from her mother and aunt. Both of them felt that the male dominated industry would be difficult and tough for her. Joanna managed to convince her Mum of her choice with her passion and excellent results along the way and will be graduating top of her course in May. Joanna has been accepted by NTU and NUS and will be furthering her studies.

THE NEW PAPER | 01 MARCH 2017

Bad boy turns into model student at Singapore Polytechnic

Once a rebellious child who resented authority, Mr Liew Zheng Jie, 21, never imagined that he would one day graduate from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) with a diploma in chemical engineering and win a Model Student Award to boot.

At 11, he was caned three strokes in front of his class for truant behaviour.

Little changed in Unity Secondary School, where he was often late for school, sleeping in class or arguing with his teach-



Mr Liew Zheng Jie graduates later this month with a diploma in chemical engineering. TNP PHOTO: PHYLLICIA WANG

ers. All that changed when his English teacher, Mrs Isabella Teo, made him a class representative in Secondary 4.

“It was a risky decision for her and I still don't know why she did it, but that responsibility made me a better student,” he said.

“When I visited my alma mater recently, the teachers were equally shocked as I won the Model Student Award,” Mr Liew, who graduates later this month, is one of 21 recipients of

the Model Student Award.

He is among 837 students in the pioneer batch of SP's Polytechnic Foundation Programme, which helped him familiarise himself with the resources and environment of polytechnic life.

In his second year, he completed a six-week internship at New Zealand's University of Canterbury, where he worked with researchers on synthesising polymers.

— LEANNE CHUA

THE NEW PAPER | 20 MAY 2013

New perfumery course at S'pore Poly Smelling success

REPORTS: KERRI HENG
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SUNSCREENS, hair gels and soaps. These were some of the things she concocted during her time at Singapore Polytechnic, while pursuing her diploma in perfumery.

It was a course her parents weren't keen on her doing, as they had wanted her to be a doctor.

But after getting a stint at the University of Oxford, and topping her course here, they are glad she had chosen her own path to success, and not try to be what they had wanted her to be.

Miss Alethea Joy Han Hui En, 20, is among the pioneer batch of students who will graduate this Wednesday from the poly's diploma in perfumery and cosmetic science course.

She got interested in scents when she was four and put rose petals into water in an attempt to make perfume.

It didn't work out.

Now, she can become a perfumer for real, but she has had to overcome several obstacles along the way.

One of them was the perception her parents had about polytechnics.

Her father, Mr Han Kian Kwang, 55, the chief executive officer of Gurusoft, a supply chain management software company said he and his wife were initially not supportive of their daughter's decision to go to a polytechnic.

He said: "What we knew about polytechnic was based on impressions from long ago."

(But) I learnt to listen to my daughter and find out where her passion lay."

Miss Han, a former Methodist Girls' School student, said: "I was excited about school and I looked forward to learning things I liked."

Miss Han, who scored a perfect GPA of 4.0, did intense chemistry and mathematics modules throughout her course.

She created many products like sunscreens, hair gels and soaps during practical lessons.

For two design thinking projects, where students made products based on users' needs, she created a rose fragrance and an anti-ageing moisturiser.

For her final year project, she and her teammates came up with a series of four scents inspired by the freesia, a flowering plant from Africa used in hand creams and shampoos.

They made four scents called Freesia Juice, Freesia Tea, Freesia Cordial and Freesia Milk. Each scent was made for use during a different part of the day.

Oxford internship

One of Miss Han's highest points came when she and another course mate were selected to go to Oxford for an internship in September 2011.

She was there for 1½ months, working on an organic synthesis project at the university's chemistry research laboratory.

She said: "I was excited and happy that we had the chance to go to Oxford. I had a lot of fun exploring the place and meeting new people."

She also clinched several awards, including the Chua Chor Teck Gold Medal and Procter & Gamble Singapore Award.

Miss Han will be going to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland for three years to pursue a degree in chemistry this September.



TNP PICTURE: LATASHNI GOBI NATHAN

"If you love what you study, then studying wouldn't be a chore."

— Miss Alethea Joy Han Hui En (above)

A lab to delight the senses

THIS laboratory is no ordinary room.

There are dazzling blue lights and huge glass display walls filled with world-famous perfumes.

Singapore Polytechnic's perfumery and cosmetic science centre, which opened this year, wows both visitors and students.

The centre is divided into three spaces — conceptualisation, crystallisation and communication — providing an ideal environment for students to brainstorm, formulate products and showcase them.

It is also a facility specially for students from the diploma in perfumery and cosmetic science.

The course, which sees its first batch of graduates this year, is the only full-time diploma

in Singapore that offers training in chemistry, perfumery and cosmetic science.

Some of them have already found jobs in fragrance-related industries.

Prominent companies with a foothold in Singapore's perfumery industry include Procter & Gamble, Johnson and Johnson, Lubrizol, Croda and Unilever.

Course manager Jessie Tong said the diploma will enable students to serve the chemical, beauty, flavour and fragrance industries.

She said: "The demand for talent is high. (We are) the only local institute of higher learning that trains students in perfumery and cosmetic science (and) our graduates are highly sought after."

BERITA HARIAN | 01 MAY 2017

Graduan menyinar!

Fikiran terbuka gagahi jurusan pendidikan yang 'asing'

CITA-CITANYA ingin mengambil diploma dalam jurusan Pengurusan Pelancongan di Politeknik Singapura (SP) atau Politeknik Ngee Ann (NP).

Malangnya, setelah meraih hanya 16 mata untuk LIR4 bagi peperiksaan GCE 'O', Cik Azlinda Jumahat gagal mendapat tempat dalam jurusan pilihannya itu di kededua politeknik itu.

Atas sebab demikian, Cik Azlinda, 20 tahun, terpaksa melanjutkan pelajarannya hanya dengan jurusan pilihan keenamnya — Diploma Teknologi Maklumat Perniagaan (DBIT) di SP.

"Sewaktu saya baru-baru memulakan pengajian dalam DBIT tiga tahun lalu, saya langsung tiada pengetahuan asas mengenai jurusan itu."

Mencekalkan semangatnya, Cik Azlinda memilih untuk mengambil jurusan berkaitan dengan perniagaan.

"Cuba juga memilih jurusan perniagaan tetapi agregat untuk memasuki jurusan tersebut pun agak rendah.

"Jadi saya memilih jurusan DBIT dengan fikiran terbuka... lagipun ia turut banyak menyentuh bidang perniagaan," kata Cik Azlinda.

"Setelah beberapa bulan mencuba, saya dapati ia satu jurusan yang amat menarik... se-

lah-olah saya dibawa ke satu dunia yang baru."

Berkat usaha gigihnya, Cik Azlinda berjaya menamatkan pengajian dengan keputusan cemerlang dengan meraih Gred Purata Mata (GPA) setinggi 3.863.

Kata Cik Azlinda lagi, sewaktu di sekolah menengah dahulu, beliau tidak serius dalam pelajarannya.

Namun satu kejadian yang dialami ketika berada di menengah tiga telah mengubah hidup beliau buat selama-lamanya.

Ibunya, Cik Marina Ahmad, 51 tahun, yang menghidap penyakit jantung koronari, kencing manis dan tekanan darah tinggi perlu menjalani pembedahan di hospital.

"Peristiwa itu membuka mata saya agar belajar bersungguh-sungguh.

"Ibu menasihati saya supaya rajin belajar agar saya dapat melanjutkan pelajaran selepas selesai sekolah menengah," kata anak bongsu keluarga tiga beradik perempuan ini.

Katanya lagi, beliau menjadikan ibunya sebagai inspirasi untuk berjaya.

Cik Azlinda kini bertugas sepenuh masa sebagai seorang petugas pemasaran digital di Autism Recovery Network Singapore, tempat beliau pernah menjalani latihan amali semasa berada di tahun kedua di SP.



CEMERLANG DALAM PELAJARAN: Meskipun Encik Md Shariful Islam dan Cik Azlinda Jumahat perlu mengharungi cabaran berbeza ketika belajar, mereka tetap berjaya mengatasi segala rintangan itu untuk meraih Gred Purata Mata (GPA) baik. — Foto KHALID BABA

Mencongak ke hadapan, beliau melahirkan harapan dapat menyambung pelajarannya dalam jurusan Sistem Maklumat di Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) atau Universiti Pengurusan Singapura (SMU) selepas ini.

◀ Summary of Malay article

Open mind shows her a new path

When Azlinda Jumahat received her O level scores three years ago, she could not get into her dream course of Tourism Management at SP and NP through the Joint Admission Exercise. Instead, she was offered SP's **Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT)**, her sixth choice. While disappointed, she decided to approach the course with an open mind and was soon amazed by how Business and IT modules can come together to create meaningful programmes or apps. Today, Azlinda is graduating with a GPA of 3.863 and is already working full-time as a Digital Marketing Officer at the Autism Recovery Network. Azlinda hopes to further her studies in NUS or SMU in the near future.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 27 OCTOBER 2017

Encouraging IT-savvy youth to take industry to next level

Ng Jun Sen

As a child, Emma Tan Xin Rong tagged along with her civil engineer father to his work at construction sites.

Now 17, the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) student is following in his footsteps – but on a different path. Instead of learning the old labour-intensive methods of construction, Emma is picking up computer programming, digital design and modular construction skills as part of her civil engineering course.

“The world is changing, and I am now learning things that my dad doesn’t know about,” she said.

From young tech wannabes to women who used to shun the maledominated construction industry, different groups are now being wooed to join the sector.

The success of these efforts will determine if the Government can achieve its goal of reducing the construction industry’s dependence on foreign workers.

Practically all the construction workers here are foreigners, numbering some 300,000.

There are no available statistics on the foreign-local breakdown for the overall industry workforce.

But as the authorities nudge the industry to go high-tech, it wants more of such jobs to go to Singaporeans.

Two-thirds of those trained – numbering 32,600 – in skills like digital design are Singaporeans and permanent residents, said a Building and Construction Authority (BCA) spokesman. “We would like to grow this proportion as they represent good jobs for Singaporeans.”

The construction sector accounts for close to 6 per cent of Singapore’s gross domestic product and employs 14 per cent of the national workforce, and 5.5 per cent of the resident workforce.

At the Singapore Construction Productivity Week trade show yesterday, 250 young people from universities, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) visited booths, where exhibitors showcased the latest in Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA) techniques and Building Information Modelling (BIM) systems.



Singapore Polytechnic student Emma Tan Xin Rong (centre, with long hair), 17, posing for a picture with fellow students and senior lecturer Teo Kian Hun at the Singapore Construction Productivity Week trade show. ST PHOTO: NG JUN SEN

Most of the youth interviewed remarked how “exciting” the construction sector looks set to become, shattering their own expectations of the industry.

A task force, co-chaired by BCA, schools and industry associations, is now looking into creating a new curriculum for both students and those already working. Their recommendations are slated to be out by late next year, the BCA spokesman told The Straits Times.

One idea includes a capstone programme for current graduating students, potentially forming part of their pre-internship training. This could take shape in the form of an advanced final-year project that uses BIM and DfMA.

Said National University of Singapore final-year civil engineering undergraduate Tan Jing Qun, 24: “Growing up in an IT-savvy environment, we are the young generation that can be the pioneers for such technologies. There is a pressure on us to pick these all up quickly, but it is exciting.”

Even lecturers themselves need to change, as BIM and DfMA technologies did not feature in their own education. Said BIM lecturer Melo-

dy Wu, 35, from ITE: “In my civil engineering days before joining ITE in 2013, I had heard of BIM but never really practised it. Now I have to pick up these skills quickly first before I can even teach the students how to do it.”

As SP senior lecturer Teo Kian Hun puts it, the industry is now moving in a direction that is more attractive to eager young people.

Currently, many of the 160 or so students who join the School of Architecture and the Built Environment each year are male, have familial connections to someone within the industry or come from other countries such as Malaysia and Myanmar. The change in image for the industry will surely shake things up, he said.

“The industry used to be known as 3D – dirty, demeaning, dangerous. Now it is a different kind of 3D, one that leverages 3D design technologies to bring new groups into the fold.”

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BERITA HARIAN | 03 MAY 2016



SOKONGAN DAN DORONGAN SUMBER INSPIRASI: Cik Nur Irza kini gembira kerana sudah mendapat tawaran pekerjaan sebagai jurutera teknikal dan mengembangkan lagi bakatnya dalam bidang itu.

DIPLOMA MEKATRONIK DAN ROBOTIK

Kemampuan terbukti dalam kejuruteraan teknikal

IMPIANNYA menjadi angkasawan sejak kecil tidak kesampaian setelah menyedari ia agak mustahil dicapai.

Cik Nur Irza Tutty Roslan, kemudian merubah aspirasinya untuk menjadi pegawai polis pula ketika di sekolah menengah atas galakan ibunya.

Namun, selepas mengalami satu kecederaan serius di kaki, beliau melupakan sahaja hasratnya itu.

Walau bagaimanapun, halangan tersebut tidak menghambat semangat Cik Nur Irza terus mencari kerjaya yang sesuai bagi diri dan masa depannya.

Berkat ketekunan melakukan sesuatu pekerjaan, Cik Nur Irza, 20 tahun, berasa dirinya mungkin sudah menemui pekerjaan yang beliau minati.

Anak bongsu empat beradik itu akan memulakan pekerjaan barunya sebagai jurutera teknikal di sebuah syarikat swasta yang khusus menghasilkan sen-

sor pintar, selepas majlis tamat pengajian di Politeknik Singapura (SP) nanti.

Beliau juga berpeluang meningkatkan kemahirannya di Jerman pada Jun ini bersama syarikat tersebut.

Bagi lulusan Diploma jurusan Mekatronik dan Robotik (DMRO) itu peluang itu datang tanpa diduga walaupun kursus tersebut bukan pilihan utamanya.

“Ketika baru menyertai kursus DMRO saya tidak begitu meminatinya dan tidak yakin dengan kebolehan saya dalam bidang kejuruteraan.”

“Namun, saya amat bersyukur kerana mempunyai seorang pensyarah, Encik Ho Sum Lim, yang begitu mengambil berat dan meyakini kebolehan saya dari tahun pertama hingga kini.”

“Oleh itu saya amat besar hati apabila diberi peluang bekerja sepenuh masa dengan syarikat SICK Pte Ltd di mana saya pernah melakukan latihan amali

bersama mereka dahulu,” kata Cik Nur Irza.

Ketika melakukan latihan amali dengan syarikat itu selama 21 minggu di bawah program lanjutan latihan amali, Cik Nur Irza diberi kepercayaan menghasilkan alat sensor. Enam daripada alat peranti itu telah dihasilkan dan digunakan dalam syarikat di pelbagai negara sebagai sebahagian usaha menguji alat itu.

Cik Nur Irza kini berharap dapat memberikan yang terbaik kepada kerjayanya dan berhasrat meningkatkan pengetahuannya dengan mengambil kursus ijazah pula kelak.

“Impian saya tidak berhenti di sini. Saya berharap selepas ini dapat menyambung pelajaran di peringkat ijazah pula,” ujar Cik Nur Irza.

▲ Summary of Malay article

Proving her abilities in Mechatronics

Nur Irza Tutty Roslan shared how the **Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics (DMRO)** course was not her first choice, and she did not enjoy her studies initially. However, the interesting course curriculum and nurturing lecturers helped Irza to discover her confidence and passion for engineering. She subsequently interned at SICK Pte Ltd where she developed a series of sensors as part of her project. Her work was praised by her lecturer and supervisors, and the company offered her a job before her graduation. Irza has taken up the job offer and will be going to Germany for training before starting her new job.

THE NEW PAPER | 16 MARCH 2016



When he called me for help on the day his father had died, I thought that if this boy can survive these tragedies in his life, he can survive everything else that comes his way.

— Ms Christina Tang-Lien (right) on Mr Lim Bo Zhi



Singapore Polytechnic gave out its annual Model Student Awards to 22 students on Monday.

KRYSTAL CHIA (krystalc@sph.com.sg) meets two recipients who excelled despite family tragedies

They find new life after family deaths

Orphaned at 18, he scores near-perfect GPA

When he was 14, he saw his mother's lifeless body hanging by the neck. She suffered from depression and had committed suicide.

Four years later, his father died of pneumonia.

Orphaned at 18, Mr Lim Bo Zhi, who is an only child, did not have any close relatives he could turn to.

Despite this, the 21-year-old computer engineering student will graduate from Singapore Polytechnic with a near-perfect grade point average (GPA) of 3.94 out of 4.0 in May.

He is also one of 22 Model Student Awards recipients.

Mr Lim said: "Both my parents were insomniacs and often fought with each other.



She taught me that whatever happened in the past is already in the past.

— Mr Lim Bo Zhi, on Ms Christina Tang-Lien



"I was also not close to my grandmother as she could only speak Hokkien, which I am not fluent in."

Mr Lim, then a St. Joseph's Institution (SJI) student, stopped going to school for the next two years. Instead, he would lock himself in his room and play computer games such as Dota and MapleStory.

"Computer games were the only way I could escape reality and not think about my mother's death," he said.

RETURNED HOME

He eventually returned to school in 2011 after several home visits from SJI teachers and counsellors.

He said: "The teachers and counsellors were very encouraging.

"My friends, whom I play computer games with online, also encouraged me to go back to school. When they were unable to play with me because they had exams, it made me think that they had their whole life planned out but I didn't."

Despite his initial worries, Mr Lim

ROLE MODELS: Mr Lim Bo Zhi (left) and Mr Vishnucharan Naidu, are recipients of Singapore Polytechnic's annual Model Student Awards.

PHOTOS: SHAHRIYA YAHAYA, LIM BO ZHI



Many people told me I was too young... But the more we performed to sell-out crowds, the more they believed in us.

— Mr Vishnucharan Naidu (below)



Late father is his inspiration

Mr Vishnucharan Naidu was only 12 when his father died, and overnight, his life changed.

His father, who was an executive at the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), was the family's sole breadwinner.

Mr Vishnu, 20, who studied at St Andrew's Secondary School, was put on the Ministry of Education Financial Assistance Scheme. His mother worked at an infant care centre to support him and his two older sisters.

He worked part-time as a waiter and a packer while studying applied drama and psychology at Singapore Polytechnic (SP).

In 2014, when he was in his second year, he set up theatre group Big Birds Productions.

Mr Vishnu will graduate with a GPA of 3.37 in May.

Big Birds Productions now has five core members and 15 actors, most of whom are SP students. The non-profit group has staged three ticketed public shows.

Last September, the group staged the play *Cockfight* at Goodman Arts Centre. All three shows were sold out. The play explored the idea of loss and several audience members cried during the play, said Mr Vishnu.

Mr Vishnu now lives in a four-room flat in Serangoon with his civil serv-

ant sisters, aged 23 and 28, and his mother, who is now a freelance babysitter.

He said his dad is his inspiration.

"I realised how people change and become better and stronger when they lose someone dear," he said, adding that he has used that theme in a screenplay he wrote.

But setting up a theatre group was not easy.

BELIEF

Mr Vishnu said: "Many people told me I was too young... But the more we performed to sell-out crowds, the more they believed in us."

His older sister, Ms Vishnupriya Naidu, said: "Initially, I wasn't sure if my brother was ready... But he surprised me."

Ms Angela Chua, 22, a speech and drama teacher who is also with Big Birds Productions, said its members look up to Mr Vishnu.

She added: "As someone who has been through the same school curriculum as Vishnu, I find it admirable how he juggles school demands with production work."

Mr Vishnu, who aspires to be a theatre director, said: "I want to educate the public on topics not commonly talked about in society. I want to give a voice to the voiceless."

was glad that his classmates accepted him and did not probe his family background.

But he was not doing well in his studies.

"I barely met the promotional criteria for Secondary 4. I was struggling in every subject except mathematics," he said.

Six months before the O levels, SJI full-time counsellor Christina Tang-Lien, 50, arranged for Mr Lim to stay in a hostel in Catholic Junior College (CJC), an affiliated school of SJI.

Mr Lim said: "I could study better without the distraction of computer games. As the hostel housed many scholars, the environment also motivated me to study."

It was during this time that his relationship with his father improved.

Mr Lim, who is still living in the hostel, said: "I realised that I did miss him. We would talk over the phone once a week."

In 2013, he scored 9 points for his LIR4 (a combined score for English and four relevant subjects) in the O

levels. His father was very happy with his results, he said.

But tragedy struck again.

A few days after leaving the hostel to move home, his dad, who was then 53 and had been in poor health for a long time, died of pneumonia.

Mr Lim said: "I couldn't wake him up in the morning. I called Ms Christina immediately.

"I was speechless. But I was also glad that he did not have to suffer anymore."

NEW BEGINNINGS

In April 2013, he started school at Singapore Polytechnic, which he called "a new beginning".

In his first year, he was part of the poly's peer-tutoring programme, where he coached weaker students taking the same course.

In his second year, Mr Lim organised an overseas community trip with schoolmates, where they built toilets and taught English to village children.

That year, he also volunteered for 10 months at a family care centre, giv-

ing tuition to primary school pupils once a week.

He credits his achievements today to Ms Tang-Lien, whom he regards as family.

Mr Lim said: "She taught me that whatever happened in the past is already in the past. I knew that I had to work hard, not just to secure my future but also to do Ms Christina proud."

Now a senior counsellor at SJI, Ms Tang-Lien said she had a shock when she first met Mr Lim at his home towards the end of 2010. This was when he would hole himself up in his room.

She said: "When Bo Zhi walked out to meet me, I was shaken to the core.

"He was emaciated, pale and expressionless. He had the body of a 10-year-old boy. He feared being in public and kept imagining that people were staring at him."

On subsequent visits, Mr Lim's father would not open the door for her, she said. It was only a few months later that Mr Lim reached out to her.

Ms Tang-Lien convinced him to re-

turn to school.

She said: "I pointed to the rubbish piled up in his home and asked him point blank if that was what he wanted for the rest of his life.

"I think that was the turning point for him."

Mr Lim was later found to be short-sighted at about 500 degrees. He was also so skinny that clothes in the children's department could not fit him, said Ms Tang-Lien.

"When he called me for help on the day his father had died, I thought that if this boy can survive these tragedies in his life, he can survive everything else that comes his way," she said.

Mr Lim hopes to get a scholarship to pursue a degree in computer science.

When asked what he thinks his parents would say of his achievements if they were still alive, he said: "They don't normally expect much of me but I think they would be proud to see where I am today.

"They would ask me to keep up the good work."

THE NEW PAPER | 21 JANUARY 2017

Singapore Poly students' smart alarm to keep bikes safe

JOSEPH LEE

Have you ever secured your bike to a bicycle stand at a void deck with a chain only to find a single wheel left in its place the next day?

Mr Bernard Soh Ee Siang, 19, an avid cyclist, has had that experience. In fact, the Sembawang resident has had two bicycles stolen in five years.

There were 771 bicycle thefts between January and September last year and 894 thefts in the same period in 2015.

Keen to address the problem of bike thefts, the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) student accepted his lecturer's challenge of building a smart bicycle alarm.

The idea had come from Adsec Singapore, a retail security company his lecturer was in touch with.

Working closely with the company and his lecturer, Mr Soh led his team of three to come up with the Smart Bike Alarm.

The students, who are pursuing a diploma in electrical and electronic engineering, came up with the prototype over a period of nine months for their final-year project.

The alarm was one of the 94 projects featured this week at SP's Engineering Show, an annual



(From left) Singapore Polytechnic electrical and electronic engineering students Joshua Mathew, Heng Yiren Jannai and Bernard Soh Ee Siang. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

There were 771 bicycle thefts between January and September last year and 894 thefts in the same period in 2015.

annual showcase of final-year projects by engineering students.

The hand-sized alarm the team created can be attached to a bicycle with a wire.

Mr Soh said his team wanted a device that worked with mobile apps.

So, through Bluetooth pairing, users can lock and unlock the bike alarm with an app.

If the alarm is not unlocked through the app, or movement is detected on the bicycle or mobility device, the alarm will sound for five seconds.

If there is continued movement, the alarm will continue to sound indefinitely, and the

owner will be alerted via an SMS.

The app also allows the user to locate the alarm's location via Google Maps.

If the thief tries to cut the wire, the sound will also continue indefinitely. The SMS will also specify that the wire has been cut.

If the user's mobile phone runs out of battery, he can key in a self-set password on the device's keypad once he has recovered the bicycle.

Mr Soh told The New Paper: "I didn't want others to experience what I experienced, and I want to provide them a peace of mind."

'CHALLENGING'

He said trying to make the device compact, small and light was challenging.

"We did a lot of research," said Mr Soh.

Adsec Singapore is already looking for investors for the alarm.

Mr Geoffrey Foo, general manager of Adsec Singapore, told TNP: "As we move towards becoming a cycling nation, there will be a greater need for this product."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 20 JANUARY 2017

Growing real solutions to real-world problems

One-third of student projects at S'pore Poly showcreated in response to industry requests



(From far left) Singapore Polytechnic students Tan Gim Yeow, Tan Yi Xuan, Chua Yong Chuan and Louis Szeto Hao Xuan with their urban farming kit, a multi-tiered rotating pot holder that allows more plants to be grown in a given space. ST PHOTO: NIVASH JOYVIN

WATCH THE VIDEO
http://str.sg/4WJE



PRACTICAL INVENTIONS

Students will be a lot more motivated if they are solving real-world problems.

TOH WEN LI

From a rotating "urban farming kit" inspired by the Singapore Flyer to an alarm to deter and track bicycle thieves, more final-year projects at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) have been designed in response to requests from industry partners.

Since 2014, there has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of industry-linked projects displayed at SP's annual engineering show, which ends today. They comprise about a third of the 94 final-year projects on display this year.

SP's deputy principal Lim Peng Hun, 56, said: "Students will be a lot more motivated if they are solving real-world problems."

While the students are not paid for their work, Mr Lim said he would not rule out the possibility of royalties in the future for commercialised work.

The urban farming kit, devised by a team of four aeronautical engineering students, is a multi-tiered rotating pot holder, about 3m high, that resembles a Ferris wheel. It allows more plants to be grown in a given space.

It rotates on its own and can be paused so that the user – be it a child or an elderly person – can tend to the plants at a height he is comfortable with. It also comes with an automatic irrigation system.

Team member Chua Yong Chuan, 19, said: "We want to make farming fun... Why not explore using the 'Singapore Flyer' to grow crops?"

Kampung Senang Charity and Education Foundation, which signed a memorandum of understanding with Singapore Polytechnic in November 2015 for mobility-aid services, will use the farming device at one of its centres in May.

Mr Vernon Sun, 46, community partnership manager for the foundation, said: "It's good to cultivate in youngsters a sense of community."

Another device at the show is the "smart bike alarm".

It was requested by security company Adsec Singapore and designed by three students. It is aimed at cyclists who leave their bicycles unattended for a short while.

The alarm will sound when it senses that the parked bicycle is being moved for a prolonged period of time. Coordinates of the bike's location are then sent to the owner.

Adsec Singapore's general manager Geoffrey Foo, 50, who is a cycling enthusiast, said the company plans to commercialise the alarm, with modifications, by early next year.

Mr Lim added: "These prototypes need to be validated by our industry partners. We want the learning experience to be as authentic as possible, beyond the prototype."

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SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC'S
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LIM PENG HUN

THE NEW PAPER | 22 JANUARY 2016

Helping the blind with good vibrations



INVENTORS:

(From left) Lai Yue Shan, Siti 'atikah Mohd Raba'i and Nurridzuan B Supardi worked on the Sun Gauntlet (far left).

She was rushing to school when she saw a blind man with a white cane walk into an advertisement board at Outram MRT station.

While Miss Siti 'atikah Mohd Raba'i, 25, was unable to tell if the man was injured, the incident stayed with her.

It motivated her to come up with an invention to help the blind avoid such accidents.

So for their final-year project at Singapore Polytechnic, Miss Siti and her team members, Mr Nurridzuan B Supardi, 24, and Mr Lai Yue Shan, 26, came up with the Sun Gauntlet – a pairing of a hat and glove that senses objects ahead and alerts the wearer to them. It only works with objects at waist level and above.

The hat and glove vibrate when there are objects ahead. The closer the user gets to an object, the higher the intensity of the vibrations.

The hat, which has a speaker, can even "talk" to the wearer, informing him of the objects ahead.

The Sun Gauntlet's sleeve has an attached Global Positioning System and Global System for Mobile Communications so the wearer can inform his next-of-kin of his exact whereabouts in the case of an emergency.

Miss Siti said: "We hope our invention will further motivate the virtually impaired to be more independent and more confident with themselves."

To ensure they were on the right track, they tested their prototype with Mr Kua Cheng Hock, 59, the first man to get a guide dog in Singapore.

Miss Siti said Mr Kua had advised them to focus on the hat because it does something that the cane is unable to do, which is to detect obstacles in front.

She said the team understands the limitations of their invention and are working to improve it.

Giving wheelchair users a lift



TEAM:

(From left) Tan Jun Ren, Dylan Kevin Conceicao, mentor Iain Choi, Tan Jia Jing Roy, Lim Lu Xin and Theng Wen Jun Clarence and the scissor lift they built (inset).

TNP PHOTOS: GAVIN FOO

They were given the challenge of helping a wheelchair-bound person easily get into a Housing Board flat with steps at the entrance.

And they delivered, with a scissor lift – a compact lifting device that raises the wheelchair to the same height as the flat's floor, so that it can be wheeled straight in.

The students, who are pursuing a diploma in aeronautical engineering, did it as part of their final year project.

The team comprised Mr Lim Lu Xin, Mr Tan Jia Jing Roy, Mr Tan Jun

Ren, Mr Dylan Kevin Conceicao and Mr Theng Wen Jun Clarence, all 19.

Their mentor, Mr Iain Choi, 35, got the ball rolling by telling them about a man he knew who had been struggling with getting his wheelchair-bound mother-in-law in and out of their flat.

The man, known only as Mr Lok, who is in his 50s, used a wooden ramp over the steps but it was too much effort. The team embarked on the project to help Mr Lok and others who face similar problems.

Mr Conceicao said: "We're very proud of our invention. Our group dynamics were very good and there was good teamwork."

The team plans to install the lift in Mr Lok's flat by next month.

TAMIL MURASU | 29 MAY 2017

பொறியியல் மாணவர்களின் இசை சிகிச்சைக் கருவி

ரவீணா சிவகுருநாதன்

இசையை பயன்படுத்தி நோயாளிகளை எளிய முறையில் குணப்படுத்துவதற்கு உதவும் கருவி ஒன்றை உருவாக்கியுள்ளார் சிங்கப்பூர் பல்கலைக்கழக தொழில்நுட்ப கல்லூரி மாணவர் ரவீசந்திரன் குமரேஷ்.

குழுவாகச் செயல்பட்டு இந்தப் பணியை உருவாக்கியுள்ள 20 வயதான குமரேஷ், இவ்வாண்டு விண்வெளி, மின்னணுவியல் பொறியியல் துறையில் பட்டயக் கல்வி முடித்துள்ளார்.

கேசே மகளிர், சிறார் மருத்துவமனையுடன் இணைந்து இக்கருவி உருவாக்கப்பட்டது.

பொதுவாக, நோயாளிகளின் உடல், உணர்வு, அறிவாற்றல், சமூகத் தேவைகளை அறிந்து அவற்றை நிவர்த்தி செய்யப் பயன்படுத்துவதுதான் இசை சிகிச்சை. நோயாளிகளின் மனதை அமைதிப்படுத்த இசைக் கருவிகளை இசை சிகிச்சையாளர்கள் வாசிக்கின்றனர்.

குமரேஷ் குழுவினர் ஒரு தள்ளுவண்டியில் கித்தார், 'கீபோர்ட்' போன்ற பல இசைக் கருவிகளைப் பொருத்தியுள்ளனர். அவற்றுக்கான மின்னணு கருவிகளும் அந்தத் தள்ளுவண்டியில்



ஆசிரியர், கேசே மகளிர், சிறார் மருத்துவமனையின் ஊழியர்கள் குமரேஷ் இடமிருந்து மூன்றாவது, அவரது குழுவினர் ஆகியோர் தாங்கள் தயாரித்த இசைத் தள்ளுவண்டியை உருவாக்கினர். படம்: சிங்கப்பூர் பல்கலைக்கழக தொழில்நுட்ப கல்லூரி

அமைக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதால் இசை சிகிச்சையாளருக்கு இது பெரிதும் உதவுகிறது.

தனது நண்பர்கள் பலர் 'டிஜோன்' எனப்படும் ஆளில்லாத வாகனங்களைப் பற்றி திட்டப்பணி மேற்கொண்டதாகக் கூறிய குமரேஷ், தனித்துவமான முயற்சியை மேற்கொள்ளவேண்டும் என்ற காரணத்தால் இந்தப் பணியைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்ததாகச் சொன்னார்.

வானியலில் மிகுந்த ஆர்வம் இருந்தாலும் மற்ற பொறியியல் துறைகளிலும் திறன்களை வளர்த்துக்கொள்ள விரும்பும் இவர் வானியல் துறையில் பட்டக்கல்வி மேற்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறார்.

▲ Summary of Tamil article

Singapore Poly students develop music cart

A team of six students from SP's Diploma in Aerospace Electronics (DASE) and Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering developed an innovative music cart. Developed over two years, the cart was designed with meaningful input from KK Hospital and aims to improve the productivity of the hospital's music therapists. The music cart can be expanded or collapsed, depending on the user's needs and comes with a built-in power source and speakers. This allows the therapists to charge their laptops or use the electronic music instruments such as keyboard and drum set without the need to look for a wall socket.

THE NEW PAPER | 06 JANUARY 2016

Local innovations take flight

In-flight solutions developed by Singapore Poly students picked up by Boeing

DEVELOPERS: (From left) Mr Elston Cheah Kai Shean, Mr Dexter Tan Jun Yuan and Mr Hisham Bary were three of the six who won the Boeing Patent Award.
TNP PHOTOS: PHYLLIGIA WANG



Reports by SITI NUR AISHA OMAR
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A few years down the road, cabin crew may see three in-flight solutions developed by six Singapore Polytechnic (SP) students in Boeing's new planes.

At yesterday's opening of SP's new aerospace training facility, known as AeroHub, the students were presented with the Boeing Patent Award for their solutions, which serve to improve crew safety and productivity.

The solutions have been patented by aircraft industry giant Boeing, making it the first such achievement by a local institution.

Boeing representative Cynthia Vandewall said: "These patents are a testament to the SP students' breadth of creativity and industry-centric skills. We look forward to many more

successes with SP students in the coming years."

For five weeks in 2013, the six students from SP's engineering, business and design diplomas worked with Boeing researchers and cabin crew and conducted in-depth studies and surveys to find solutions.

Ms Low Yen Ling, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry, who was the guest of honour, said: "It's interesting to note how the multidisciplinary projects are opening opportunities for SP students to develop practical solutions for real-world problems.

"The Boeing patents are a good example of how students from various disciplines can

come together to hone their skills, and use them to benefit the community.

"Gone are the days where we just specialise in a silo area."

SP and Boeing have been in a unique partnership since 2011. The three award-winning solutions are part of a slew of innovations that SP students have been developing for the company's consideration.

HONOURED

Mr Elston Cheah Kai Shean, 21, who was involved in the development of two solutions, said: "I'm really honoured to win this award as the solution was something we worked on three years ago and now we have received rec-

ognition for it.

"It was an eye-opening experience working with the world's largest aerospace company, and also students from other diplomas, as having differing opinions made our solutions better."

AeroHub houses the aeronautical and aerospace electronics engineering laboratories and facilities under one roof at SP.

The four-storey hub is equipped with facilities typically found in an industrial aircraft hangar, including a flight simulator room and an engine maintenance room for hands-on training.

It will be open to the public during SP's Open House from tomorrow to Saturday.

BERITA HARIAN | 26 JANUARY 2015



Kenderaan Udara Tanpa Pemandu dengan fungsi lebih selamat

UAV BERJAYA DITERBANGKAN: Kumpulan lima pelajar kejuruteraan SP (dari kanan) Encik Kenny Chua, Syed Amir, Encik Joey Ng, Encik Zabidi dan Encik Toh Jing Han, bersama Kenderaan Udara Tanpa Pemandu (UAV) yang mereka cipta. - Foto JOHARI RAHMAT

KUMPULAN lima pelajar daripada Politeknik Singapura berjaya menghasilkan sebuah Kenderaan Udara Tanpa Pemandu (UAV) yang lebih selamat bagi menjalankan pengawasan di kawasan bandar.

Projek itu merupakan kolaborasi antara pelajar SP dalam jurusan kejuruteraan mekanikal dan aeronautik bersama Pasukan Polis Singapura (SPF).

"Tujuan projek ini ialah menghasilkan UAV yang dapat memantau kawasan berpenduduk dengan selamat.

"Jika berlaku kegagalan teknikal, UAV ini tidak harus mencederakan orang awam," jelas Encik Zabidi Kamsani, 19 tahun.

Beliau dan Syed Amir Syed Anwar Sahab, 19 tahun, merupakan anggota kumpulan pelajar yang membina UAV atas lakaran reka bentuk kumpulan mereka.

Antara fungsi selamat yang dibina kumpulan itu ialah Dual Bateri dan Single Rotor Loss Backup.

Bermula pada Jun tahun lalu, kumpulan pelajar diberikan perincian oleh SPF untuk membina sebuah UAV dengan reka bentuk yang selamat daripada kegagalan dan dapat mengandaskan masa penerbangan, serta berfungsi memantau kawasan.

UAV sekitar empat kilogram yang dihasilkan kumpulan itu memenuhi setiap keperluan SPF dan dapat terbang selama 30 minit.

Orang awam mengunjungi pameran kejuruteraan di SP elevenSQ yang diadakan dua hari pada minggu lalu.

Melalui pameran itu, kumpulan itu berharap usaha mereka dapat dipertingkatkan lagi oleh pelajar junior mereka.

"Oleh kerana kesuntukan masa, kami tidak dapat menyertakan fungsi jika satu motor sayap gagal, motor sayap bertentangnya akan turut berhenti supaya penerbangan UAV lebih seimbang," kata Encik Zabidi.

Projek akhir tahun ini merupakan kemuncak bagi pengalaman mereka di SP.

"Pada latihan penerbangan pertama, UAV kami gagal terbang. Namun kami pasang semula dan memperbaiki UAV hingga berjaya pada percubaan kedua.

"Ia saat membanggakan dan menggembirakan kerana kejayaan UAV itu adalah hasil kesungguhan usaha kami," ujar Syed Amir.

◀ Summary of Malay article

Unmanned aerial vehicle with safer function

A group of five students from the **Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (DARE)** - Kenny Chua, Syed Amir Syed Anwar Sahab, Joey Ng and Zabidi Kamsani - collaborated with Singapore Police Force to build an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The UAV can be used to monitor crowds and there are innovative safety features built into it such as dual battery packs and a Single Rotor Loss Backup. Syed Amir mentioned that it was a proud moment for them as the success of the UAV is a testament of the team's hard work.

THE NEW PAPER | 22 JANUARY 2016

Engineering real-life solutions

110 solutions developed by 400 final-year engineering students from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) were showcased at the SP Engineering Show 2016. They solve real-life problems faced by people from all walks of life. Reporters **SITI NUR AISHA OMAR** and **HO YUEN TENG** look at three innovative solutions.

This drone can 'bee' a real help

Pest control workers clearing beehives face being stung by hundreds of angry buzzing bees defending their colony, which is usually somewhere high up on a tree.

So why not fly an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near the hive and spray chemicals on it from a safe distance?

That was one scenario three final-year SP students worked on.

They built their Pest Controller's Assistant UAV from scratch, envisioning it being used for beehive destruction and rooftop inspection.

Their project was one of 110 developed by 400 final-year engineering students to solve real-life problems and which were showcased at the SP Engineering Show 2016.

Pest control company Pestbusters had approached the polytechnic with the problem.

Their workers have to don heavy gear and get close to beehives before spraying special chemicals to destroy them. They also have to scale heights to do visual inspection of roof tops.

One of the developers, Mr Yan Junfeng, 23, said: "Both types of work present great risks. With this tool, the pest controller can simply choose a comfortable location and remotely pilot the flying machine to carry out the otherwise hazardous tasks."

The team, which also included Mr Kenny Yeo Ling Zhi, 19, and Mr Andrew Teng Kai Hong, 21, took about a year to complete the project.

Pestbusters was so impressed by the prototype that it is trying to find a manufacturer to produce it.

Mr Yan said: "We just feel happy that an actual industry



partner is satisfied with our prototype. If this really takes off, it'll be like contributing to society, as we'd be making the lives of those working in the pest industry easier."

The annual exhibition ends today.

ENGINEERS: (From left) Kenny Yeo Ling Zhi, Andrew Teng Kai Hong and Yan Junfeng testing out their invention (far left).
TNP PHOTOS: GAVIN FOO



This annual exhibition provides our final year engineering students with the opportunity to showcase their projects to fellow students, staff, industry visitors and the public. It's also a chance for them to demonstrate their 'tech-readiness' in an era where technological innovation is competitive and valued.

— An SP spokesman

THE STRAITS TIMES | 22 JULY 2017

S'pore Poly revs up solar car for race



SunSPEC5 will be only S'pore entrant in Australian event

TRISTAN JEYARETNAM

The latest incarnation of Singapore Polytechnic's solar-powered car SunSPEC5 will be competing once again in October at the World Solar Challenge race in Australia.

The car, which was unveiled yesterday and was 20 months in the making, has a carbon fibre-reinforced polymer body. It is a two-wheel drive with a 1.5-kilowatt high-efficiency direct-current motor, and has a top speed of 100kmh.

Mr Steven Chew, a senior lecturer at Singapore Polytechnic and a team manager who worked on the car, said: "It was tiring but also very fulfilling to see the students build these cars themselves, and work independently."

SunSPEC5 will be the only solar car from Singapore competing in the biennial Australian race. It will be one of the cars from 30 countries taking part in the 3,000km race, which starts in Darwin and ends in Adelaide.

This is the third time the polytechnic is entering the race. In 2015 – its sec-

ond try – the race car, called SunSPEC4, was destroyed in a fire when the internal battery pack short-circuited. Luckily, the team managed to rebuild the car in less than four weeks, and finished in eighth place.

Hopes are high that this year's race in the advanced Cruiser Class category will go smoothly.

The polytechnic has tied up with Singapore grid operator SP Group – an electric utility firm – in a five-year contract worth \$1 million. Both aim to work together to help groom students

into engineers.

Former Singapore Polytechnic student Leow Wei Lin, 27, who now works for SP Group, said he had no knowledge about renewable energy when he was a poly student. After working on Sun-SPEC4, he acquired the requisite skills, thanks to the training he received from his lecturers and poly staff. He is returning the favour by mentoring students at the poly.

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THE NEW PAPER | 05 APRIL 2017

Fast-track for SP accountancy students

SIM YAN LING

Singapore Polytechnic (SP) students now have the option of qualifying as a chartered accountant here and in the United Kingdom through an accelerated route that does not require a degree.

Yesterday, a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Deloitte Singapore and SP.

SP launched a part-time Professional Chartered Accountancy (PCA) course to better prepare and fast-track students to complete the modules of the ICAEW Associate Chartered Accountant examination, which will help them become as chartered accountants.

They must still have three years of working experience before they can qualify as chartered accountants.

The MOU will support students looking for a career in accountancy and finance with an

interview at Deloitte Singapore.

Mr Mark Billington, regional director of ICAEW South-east Asia, said yesterday: "The MOU broadens access. We are really keen on broadening access to who can become a chartered accountant."

Miss Nur Ariyanni Binte Hamidon, 19, a third-year accountancy diploma student at SP, has taken up the PCA course.

She said: "A lot of people, especially in Singapore, think a degree is what everyone needs to get a job."

"But times have changed and experience is also important for accountancy. A degree is not the only option and pathway to become a chartered accountant."

On future developments, Mr Yang Chi Chih, audit talent partner of Deloitte Singapore, said: "This MOU is just a start, and certainly does not exclude Deloitte working with any of the other polytechnics."

This MOU is the first of its kind for ICAEW.

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 30 OCTOBER 2017



Difficult race for S'pore Poly's solar car

Accident, rough weather thwart team's bid to finish on time; only three out of 13 teams make it

CHLOE NG

His life flashed before his eyes as he smelled smoke.

A punctured front tyre sent the prototype solar car that electrical and electronic engineering student Ngah Phek Siang, 22, was in veering sharply to the right – into the path of an oncoming road train, a type of long trucking vehicle.

Fortunately, the driver of the Sun-SPEC5 car, Ms Krystal Wong, 22, remained calm and yanked hard on the steering wheel, wrestling the car safely to the left and off the road, but not before leaving a 200m-long skid mark in her wake.

The two Singapore Polytechnic students were participating in the 2017 World Solar Challenge, as part of the SunSPEC team, a group consisting of 35 volunteer Year 3 students, 12 lecturers, and three alumni who now work at utility company SP Group.

From Oct 8 to 12, they raced against 39 other teams from around the world along a 3,000km race course from Darwin to Adelaide in Australia.

That accident, though, threw a spanner in the works for the team, in what was already one of the toughest competitions out there for experimental solar vehicles.

In the World Solar Challenge held once every two years, besides strict car design criteria, participants must also design for the unforgiving Australian out-

back, where temperatures fluctuate from single digits to 40 deg C within a single day, and heavy thunderstorms.

This year, SunSPEC was the only team from Singapore, as well as the only polytechnic against universities such as Cambridge, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford.

SunSPEC entered the cruiser category, which emphasises practicality, design and end-user appeal over speed. SunSPEC5 is the metaphorical offspring of the team's previous entry in 2015, Sun-SPEC4. It took 20 months from December 2015 to design and build.

Lecturer Foo Fang Siong, 48, who served as SunSPEC's assistant team manager, spent close to a year finalising its design. He took into account previous problems that the SunSPEC4 had encountered, such as a faulty wheel alignment that caused the steering wheel to veer left or right with every road bump.

This year, Mr Foo also made sure his drivers were comfortable.

"The seat (in 2015) was just two hard carbon fibre plates. The driver had to sit on that for the entire race.

This time he put in an ergonomic black and red leather seat, as well as an adjustable steering wheel, he said.

The two drivers, Mr Sebert Fong, 20, and Ms Wong, both from the Diploma in Mechatronics and Robotics (DMRO) course, drove from 8am to 5pm every day, racing to reach each of the nine check-

points along the route. To meet their daily time goals, they ate chocolate or granola bars behind the wheel, and even skipped toilet breaks at times.

Even then, SunSPEC5 failed to arrive in Adelaide on time. Heavy rains on the third day blocked out the sun, delaying the majority of the teams' charging time.

Out of 13 teams in the cruiser category, only three managed to finish the race within the final day's deadline, with the other 10 automatically given a near-failing score. Sun-SPEC received a total score of 51.5, compared with the winner, Solar Team Eindhoven, with 93.4.

"We have a lot more things to improve on," said Mr Fong.

Mr Seow Jing Woon, 19, from DMRO, said: "It was a tough race mentally." He was part of the crew that worked on SunSPEC5's suspension and brakes, one of several teams that kept the car running smoothly every day. "We need to make sure everything works... Before this race, I was a bit clumsy. Now I'm more careful."

Mr Joey Ang, 19, from the Diploma in Energy Systems and Management, appreciated the chance to interact with participants from other countries.

He recounted how the Kogakuin University Solar Team's car completely flipped over during a test drive. "Surprisingly, (the driver) still came back the next day. It taught me about resilience, and other

Singapore Polytechnic's team at the finish line in Adelaide with its car, SunSPEC5. There were nine checkpoints, excluding the start and finish points, in the 2017 World Solar Challenge that covered 3,000km. The team, the only entry from Singapore and the only polytechnic in the race, finished ninth in the cruiser class category. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

LESSONS LEARNT

It was a tough race, mentally. We need to make sure everything works... Before this race, I was a bit clumsy. Now I'm more careful.



MR SEOW JING WOON, on working against the weather. He was part of the crew that worked on SunSPEC5's suspension and brakes, one of several teams that kept the car running smoothly every day.

countries' work ethics."

Solar cars are still some way from becoming part of daily life, said Mr Foo. "At the moment, we don't have any automotive manufacturing industry in Singapore as a precedent, so there's some difficulty in getting certification," he said. "And in Singapore, we have a lot of clouds and trees that cast shadows, which affects the solar panels' charging.

"But if the current trend of hybrid cars and other renewable energy sources continues, the average driver might be able to own a hybrid solar car within 10 years."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 11 MARCH 2016

App calls for emergency aid with one click

Project to help 999 callers among student innovations at Singapore Poly showcase

Benjamin Tan

Imagine you are being chased and want to call the police for help, but you can hardly breathe, much less tell the police your location over the phone.

A new app that helps you dial 999 with the press of a button and sends your particulars and location directly to the police may be a lifesaver. It can also send a message to your family, alerting them to the emergency.

The app, Call Police, was on display yesterday at the Singapore Polytechnic's annual Project Showcase featuring more than 200 third-year student projects.

The prototype, not yet available to the public, is the result of a six-month collaboration between officers from Jurong West Neighbourhood Police Centre and five business information technology students from the polytechnic.

The app does away with the need for 999 callers to describe their location, which often wastes precious time if they are panicking or lost. Call Police's other features include an alarm and an embedded camera to capture evidence at a crime scene.

One of the students who designed the app, Mr Nicolas Wee, 19, said: "Let's say you're getting harassed or running away from someone - a shrill alarm can be activated by shaking your phone vigorously."

When contacted, the police confirmed the collaboration but declined to provide further details.

If made a reality, the app would be a step up from the police's current app, Police@SG, which allows users to view police advisories and make non-emergency reports.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force also has a mobile app, myResponder, which notifies volunteers if a cardiac arrest case occurs nearby, so they may assist in first aid before an ambulance arrives.

Yesterday, Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) School of Design also showcased 87 of its student projects at the National Library Building in Victoria Street. NYP's exhibits are on display until tomorrow.

Design School exhibits at the Singapore Poly showcase will be open for public viewing from tomorrow until March 17. The rest of the showcase featuring exhibits from the school's other faculties ends today.

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Singapore Poly students (from left) Nicolas Wee, Deswanto, Claris Tham and Lee Wei Yan demonstrating the Call Police app they designed at the school's annual Project Showcase yesterday. Fellow team member Tng Xin Kai was not pictured. PHOTO: ALICIA CHAN FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

THE STRAITS TIMES | 18 MAY 2017

Asian Festival of Children's Content Singapore's The Little Durian Tree wins picture book award



ANNIKA MOCK

The Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC) kicked off its eighth edition on Tuesday at the Central Public Library.

Organised by the National Book Development Council of Singapore, the five-day festival offers a slew of free and ticketed events including conferences, panel discussions, workshops and masterclasses.

It will feature 157 speakers from 18 countries, with notable speakers including Ireland's children's laureate P.J. Lynch and English filmmaker Leslee Udwin, whose films include Peabody award-winning documentary India's Daughter (2015) and East Is East (1999), which won Best Film at the British Academy Film Awards.

The festival was opened by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu, who emphasised the need to support Asian content in children's literature in her speech.

"Children respond better to stories with characters, places and daily settings that they are familiar with and they identify better with stories that reflect our culture," she said.

In keeping with the festival's goal to promote exceptional children's content, the winner of the biennial Scholastic Picture Book

Award was also announced at the ceremony. The award, which acknowledges outstanding, unpublished picture books that incorporate distinctly Asian themes, was given to The Little Durian Tree.

Chosen from 137 entries across Asia, the book was the brainchild of a five-member team comprising students from Singapore Polytechnic and is about a durian tree's quest for friendship despite the thorny exterior of the fruit.

Ms Shona Adisri Menon, 19, a member of the group, said: "For a lot of people in our course, the dream is to get a book published so the fact that this happened to the five of us is surreal and a dream come true."

As this year's country of focus is Indonesia, the festival will feature 19 sessions and performances on the country's literature and culture. In particular, visitors can expect talks on Indonesian fiction and storytelling sessions depicting traditional Indonesian folktales.

Other highlights include a Writers And Illustrators Conference, a Cross-Platform Summit and a Teachers Congress And Parents Forum, which will provide parents and teachers with tips on improving children's literacy skills.

On the chief purpose of the festival, Ms Claire Chiang, chairperson of the National Book Development Council of Singapore, said: "We believe in the content that our authors and



illustrators produce. The stories written and illustrated by Asians are as good as those from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, where there are mature and vibrant children's publishing industries.

"We want to build our own local market as well as tap into the broader Asian market."

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From far left: Students Melodie Edith James, Kylen Ho, and Shona Adisri Menon, all 19, are part of the five-member team that produced The Little Durian Tree (above), winner of the Scholastic Picture Book Award. ST PHOTO: ALPHONSUS CHERN

THE NEW PAPER | 09 JUNE 2017

Poly students with a passion

Early Admissions Exercises for polytechnics open

SIM YAN LING

At his interview for a spot in Singapore Polytechnic (SP), Mr Axel Teoh, 19, performed original rap songs.

The performance landed him a spot to pursue a diploma in music and audio technology.

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduate, who studied event management, was initially clueless about his post-ITE options.

"I did not know what to do (after graduation). When I learnt of the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) through a talk, everything fell into place," Mr Teoh told The New Paper.

"Who would have thought that I would be able to enter a course I have always wanted and show my passion through my talent rather than my (examination) results?"

The Ministry of Education introduced the Polytechnic EAE last year.

It allows graduating O-level, final year Nitec and Higher Nitec students from ITE to apply for

and receive conditional offers for admission into polytechnics based on their course-specific aptitudes and interests.

Mr Teoh, who started song-writing in Secondary 4, was talent-spotted by his current mentor and manager in 2015.

Mr Teoh's first music video was released that year, and he will be performing in this year's SHINE Festival, a youth music event.

He said: "EAE is something unique. It is a breath of fresh air for ITE students, and it gives ITE graduates a path to go on. It is beneficial."

Meanwhile, Miss Nicole Chua, 18, turned her learning difficulties into an opportunity to help others.

The first-year student in Temasek Polytechnic (TP) was diagnosed with mild dyslexia when she was in Primary 5, and she suffers from learning difficulties.

During her N-level year, she enrolled in a therapy centre. There, she met a teacher who would shape her future.

Miss Chua, who is pursuing her diploma in early childhood



Mr Axel Teoh
PHOTO: COURTESY OF AXEL TEOH

studies, said: "The teacher who helped me was encouraging. She had a lot of confidence in me.

"One reason I (decided to study) early childhood was that I wanted to be someone like that to children.

'HELP'

"I want to be able to help them through whatever difficulties they are going through."

Miss Chua was not confident that she would be able to get into

the course of her choice based on exam results alone, but EAE allowed her to follow her passion.

Of EAE, she said: "It helps the people who need it most. Some people really have the passion for certain things.

"So even when they do not get results that meet the cut-off points, EAE still allows them a place, so they can be more reassured and focus on their studies."

Miss Chua now aspires to take a double degree in early child-

hood and psychology.

The Polytechnic EAE application window for students from ITE opened yesterday. It is open until Wednesday for ITE students, and it is open from June 22 to 28 for O-level students.

The ITE EAE application window for N- or O-level students to enter ITE or Nitec students to progress to Higher Nitec is open from June 21 to 28.

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LIANHE ZAOBAO | 10 JUNE 2017

为学生开通另一升学管道 工院提前招生活动 本月开展

胡洁梅 报道
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自认成绩平平的许文祥庆幸能进入理工学院，修读感兴趣的课程。他去年念工艺教育学院时参加理工学院的提前招生活动，毕业前就取得工院学籍。

许文祥（21岁）目前是新加坡理工学院一年级学生，修读土木工程与管理专业文凭课程。

明年新学年要到理工学院升学的学生，可参与本月开展的提前招生活动（Early Admission Exercise，简称EAE）。工院应届毕业生的申请时段是从本月8日至14日。O水准应届学生的申请时段是本月22日至28日。通过EAE获工院“有条件录取”的学生，须符合相关入学标准。一旦接受学籍，不能在成绩放榜后参加联合招生计划。

从2018学年起，理工学院的提前招生活动可录取的学生比率从原有的12.5%增加至15%，等同于多出约500个名额。这个计划让学生凭学业以外的才华报读感兴趣的课程，评估方式包括面试、提呈作品等。

让成绩一般学生 有机会报读心仪课程

许文祥认为，提前招生活动为学生提供另一个升学选择，特别是让成绩一般的学生也有机会报读心仪课程。他在工学院的学业成绩不算突出，毕业时的平均分约2.8（满分为4分）。

他说：“新加坡工院是唯一提供土木工程与管理课程的工院，相信竞争会激烈，若不是参加提前招生活动，我可能也没机会报读。”他就读工院时曾任社区服务学会会长，他相信从中培养的领导能力也让他面试中占有一些优势。

来自普通工艺源流的许文祥几年前也是通过工院的直接招生计划，报读工院的航空电子课程，后来却发现与兴趣有些不符。他升上高级NITEC课程时转而选择土木工程。念高级NITEC课程时，他有机会到陆路交通管理局实习，了解土木工程在道路和地铁工程建设的实用性，这加深他对这方面的兴趣。



许文祥念工院时汲取的实习经验，加深他对土木工程的兴趣。他去年通过提前招生活动，成功报读新加坡理工学院的土木工程与管理课程。（徐颖荃摄）

刚进入义安工院念大众传播的陈佳蔚（17岁）去年也通过提前招生活动报读工院。她就读南华中学时参加资讯通信学会，有机会为校园活动摄影。她还曾在了一项学生摄影比赛中，与组员以一组传统游戏的照片获颁第一名。她中二时也在学长提议下参加新加坡报业控股的联合学生通讯员俱乐部，曾为学生报《逗号》的校园报道拍摄照片，今年在“照亮滨海湾”的照片也刊登在《逗号》。

她说，因喜欢书写和创作英文诗，她希望朝大众传播领域发展，结合对文字与摄影的热爱，以创意方式说故事。“我能在提前招生活动的面试中分享我的摄影作品和爱好，这是一个可让学生展现能力和兴趣的入学途径。”

有意参加工院EAE的学生可上网<https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg/>查询并报名。

工院的EAE申请期则是从本月21日至28日，N水准和O水准应届毕业生可参加，详情上网：<http://www.ite.edu.sg/admission/eae>。

◀ Summary of Chinese article

Opening a new path for students

Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business student Royston Koh entered SP via EAE(), an admissions programme for ITE Students. Royston shared that EAE() gave him an alternative pathway to enter SP and pursue the course that he is passionate about despite his average grades.

BUSINESS TIMES | 26 APRIL 2017

At the forefront of training

The Singapore Maritime Academy provides an excellent maritime education and training infrastructure for young Singaporeans

WHILE it is a constant challenge to ensure that the Singapore maritime workforce is trained to meet the needs of the employers and industry, the Singapore Maritime Academy (SMA) provides an excellent maritime education and training infrastructure where young Singaporeans receive subsidised education in marine engineering, maritime business and nautical studies for its full-time diploma courses.

Further upgrading for professional courses such as the Certificate of Competency (CoC) and Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) courses for deck and engineering officers are also offered at the institution.

Says Capt Mohd Salleh Bin Ahmad Sarwan, director of Singapore Maritime Academy: "The maritime industry experiences numerous regulatory and technological changes constantly, to which SMA responds by looking ahead and introducing new courses and initiatives to ensure that its graduates are prepared for the future needs of the industry."

In celebration of its 60th anniversary this year, SMA renews its commitment to prepare the next generation of maritime professionals

with technical competencies, industry knowledge, overseas exposure and character development through the purposefully designed curriculum and activities beyond the classroom, he adds.

Singapore Maritime Academy has got the Special Mention Award at this year's International Maritime Awards. The institution is an invaluable training partner and in particular is contributing under the SkillsFuture and Earn and Learn programmes.

As a forward-looking institution, SMA remains at the forefront of maritime education and training through three key thrusts: leveraging education technology, building staff capability and strengthening industry engagement.

"In keeping with technological advances in teaching and learning, SMA embraces education technology where conventional teaching methods are enhanced with e-tools and e-materials," says Capt Salleh.

To support this "blended learning" approach, SMA uses Blackboard, a learning management system where all the materials for the modules are uploaded (including lec-

ture notes, videos and power point slides) and are accessible to the students from anywhere with Internet connection at their convenience.

SMA partners the American Digital University, Inc in USA to develop and offer the Certificate of Competency (CoC) e-learning programmes. The online programmes cover the CoC courses for deck and marine engineer officers and have been designed to facilitate learning from home or work at the learner's own pace.

SMA will continue to invest and develop maritime-related e-materials to aid in the teaching and learning of maritime topics for its students, says Capt Salleh.

The experienced staff at SMA is supported by sophisticated facilities including a fully integrated maritime simulation centre and a waterfront training facility. SMA makes extensive use of simulators to provide an authentic learning environment for its students before they step out into the working world. It also embarks on various initiatives and enhancements to ensure that its students have access to the latest technology in training so that their skills are kept up to date and relevant to the industry.

SMA has been working on strengthening staff technical and leadership capability as well as enhancing industry engagement through structured training and developmental programmes. The staff are also required to go for industrial attachment at least once in five years to ensure that they are up to date with industry trends and developments.

Capt Salleh says that SMA has recently embarked on various SkillsFuture initiatives as it is the sector co-ordinator for the sea transport sector. As sector coordinator, SMA plays a central role in driving and coordinating engagements between the educational institutions and the industry for their respective sectors, to strengthen linkages and synergy between study and work.

Under the Earn-and-Learn Programme (ELP), which is a work-study programme designed to give fresh graduates from polytechnics and ITE a headstart in their careers, SMA launched the ELP for Maritime (deck officers and marine engineers) for the Diploma in Nautical Studies (DNS) and Diploma in Marine Engineering (DME) graduates in April 2016.



Capt Mohd Salleh (right) demonstrating the capability of SMA's dynamic positioning simulator to an international visitor.

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 21 SEPTEMBER 2016

本地研发诊断仪器 45分钟可确诊 骨痛热症

邓华贵 报道
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短短45分钟, 就能检验出血液样本是否含有骨痛热症病毒, 这是陈笃生医院传染病与流行病学研究所与新加坡理工学院合力研发的新诊断仪器。

已达100%准确度

新仪器采用纳米碳管 (carbon nanotubes) 来检验骨痛热症病毒, 不仅可检验出血液样本是否含有骨痛热症病毒, 还能分辨四种骨痛热症血清型 (serotype) 病毒。经过两年的测试, 仪器检验过152个样本, 已达到100%的准确度。

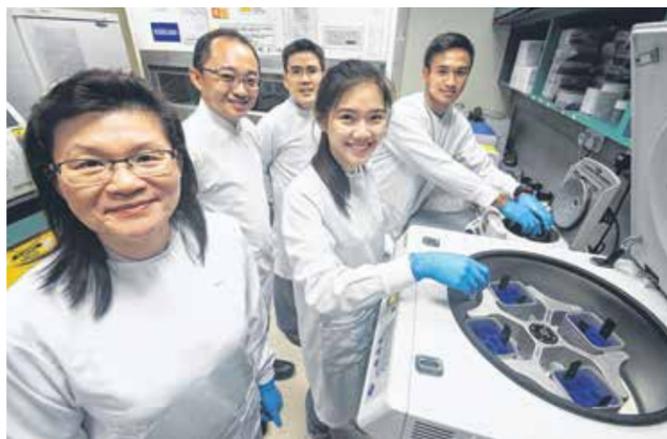
目前医院的做法是同时检验多个血液样本, 以致检验时间长达四到六个小时。若新仪器推出市场, 家庭医生能以更快捷便利的方式, 直接测试病人是否患有骨痛热症, 即省时又可节省医院资源。

陈笃生医院传染病与流行病学研究所与新加坡理工学院合力研发新诊断仪器, 有望在更短的时间内诊断出骨痛热症和兹卡病例。(陈笃生医院提供)

另一个在研发中的诊断仪器, 则能在区区10分钟内从同一个血液样本, 检验出是否含有兹卡或骨痛热症病毒。仪器目前虽处于雏形阶段, 但其准确率也已同样达百分之百。

参与这两个研发项目的新加坡理工学院医药生命科技中心主任陈勇利博士说: "我们的目标是研发出更快、更好、更便宜的诊断仪器, 方便医疗人员使用。目前有一个本地企业与我们洽谈中, 探讨为这项科技注册商标的可能性, 将仪器商品化。"

陈勇利透露, 他们希望在未来三年内将诊断仪器推出市场。至于售价, 他指仪器目前还处于研发阶段, 但若商品化, 将和市面上类似诊断仪器的价格相差不多。



传染病与流行病学研究所 (Institute of Infectious Disease & Epidemiology) 主任梁玉心教授说: "从临床角度来看, 我们希望市面上有越来越多质量好的诊断仪器, 让医生有机会为病人提供最好的医疗服务。市面上目前已有其他诊断仪器, 而我们的目标是不断改进, 提高这类仪器的品质。"

研究所自2013年与新加坡理工学院签署谅解备忘录, 其专家每年和理工学院研究人员与学生合作, 进行科研项目。

昨天, 双方代表于陈笃生医院再次签署谅解备忘录, 延长这项研究计划三年。

三年级学生指导下可实习七个月

根据计划, 修读生物医药科学的三年级学生, 可在研究所人员指导下实习七个月。其中, 蔡沛哲 (19岁) 和刘雪茹 (19岁) 今年起, 就有机会参与检验兹卡和骨痛热症病毒的仪器研发。

蔡沛哲说: "兹卡病例已在本地出现, 加上我国的地理位置, 骨痛热症病例还是不断出现。相信有了新仪器, 将能协助医生更快地诊断出兹卡和骨痛热症病例。"

刘雪茹则从中发掘对生物医药科学的兴趣。她说: "通过亲手做试验, 比较容易学习平时从课本上学不到的知识。这项科研计划如果成功, 可让很多新加坡人受惠, 因此希望毕业后能朝这方面发展。"

Locally developed diagnostic kit can diagnose dengue in 45 minutes

SP and Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) has jointly developed a new test kit which takes just 45 minutes to diagnose dengue with a 100 per cent accuracy rate. Compared to the current diagnostic kit used in hospitals which takes around 4 to 6 hours, general practitioners will be able to use this kit to test for dengue among patients, thus saving resources for the hospitals. SP's Centre for Biomedical and Life Sciences Director, Dr Tan Eng Lee, shared that their goal is to develop faster, better and cheaper diagnostic kits for easier use by the medical professionals. They are currently in talks with companies to commercialise this kit and hope to launch it in the market within the next three years. SP and TTSH also signed a second Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate in researching new methods for the early detection of infectious diseases over the next three years.

◀◀ Summary of Chinese article

THE NEW PAPER | 25 OCTOBER 2017

Fancy some prata-instant noodles and chikuteh?

SAMFREY TAN

It was only a matter of time before popular late-night snacks roti prata and instant noodles got "married".

Meet the prata-instant noodles.

It is prata shredded into noodle-like strips in a cup that has a sachet of curry. Microwave the curry, pour it in, and you have "noodles" that pack a flavourful punch.

Prata-instant noodles was developed by third-year students from Singapore Polytechnic's (SP) diploma in experience and product design course, in collaboration with the Food Innovation & Resource Centre (FIRC).

It was featured alongside other food items — such as the kaya palate and chikuteh — at FIRC's 10th anniversary event at SP yesterday.

TASTE TEST

More than 500 students, food technologists and experts were on hand to taste-test innovative food concepts.

The students behind the prata-instant noodles said that while prata is popular among young people, some find leaving their home for it a hassle.

Another notable dish is the kaya palate. Featuring different kaya spreads packaged in paint tubes, consumers can "paint" their slices of toast.

It was designed by the same SP students. To appeal to tourists as souvenirs, the kaya palate is packaged in textured paper similar to canvases to simulate paint sets.

The FIRC-developed chikuteh, a Halal version of bak kut teh, was developed to meet the demands of Muslim consumers, an untapped



market for ready-to-eat foods, said Mr Tay Chiew Teck, an FIRC process innovation manager.

The pork ribs are replaced with chicken in a light and herbal broth.

Mr Tay said: "This conversion opens a pathway where foods can be converted from non-Halal to Halal."

(Top) The prata-instant noodles and (above) the chikuteh, a Halal version of bak kut teh.
TNP PHOTOS: SAMFREY TAN

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LIANHE ZAOBAO | 25 OCTOBER 2017

本地研发“胶囊食品” 鸡汤可用咖啡机冲泡



食品创新与资源中心从去年开始研发的“胶囊食品”，只需放入家中的胶囊咖啡机，短短几分钟内就能冲泡一碗热腾腾的药材汤或沙爹酱。（朱睿彬摄）

新加坡理工学院食品创新与资源中心从去年开始研究这种胶囊食品，至今已有六种食品，如人参鸡汤、沙爹酱以及为乳糖不耐症者调配的果仁奶类等。

本地研制出“胶囊食品”，只需将浓缩胶囊放入家中的胶囊咖啡机，短短几分钟内就能冲泡一碗热腾腾的药材汤或沙爹酱。

新加坡理工学院食品创新与资源中心为纪念成立10周年，从去年开始研究这种胶囊食品（capsule food），至今已有六种食品，如人参鸡汤、沙爹酱、泰式青咖喱，以及为乳糖不耐症者调配的果仁奶类等。

中心高级经理李敏蕙博士受访时指出，熬汤或制作酱料通常需

要几个小时，但胶囊食品可用家中的胶囊咖啡机冲泡，几分钟内就能享用，大大减少了准备食物的时间。

她也说，胶囊食品有更长及稳定的保质期，依照不同食材，可储存长达三至六个月。

除了胶囊食品，昨天展出的其他未来食品概念包括，可从自动贩卖机购买以鸡肉制成的清真肉骨茶，以及可根据个人需要调整营养成分，然后通过三维打印机打印的食品等。

此外，中心昨天与日本顾问公司ICMG签署合作备忘录（MOU），设立食品创新平台，让日本与本地食品公司在食品创新、包装及自动化方面进行构思、测试，并将其商业化。

在合作备忘录下，中心也与ICMG设计了名为“日本食品创新系列”的高级讲习班（masterclass），主要帮助参与课程的食品公司更好地了解日本的饮食文化和产品制造，研发出高质量的健康食品，在不使用化

学品的情况下延长保质期。该系列分四个课程，于下个月展开。

李敏蕙博士指出，目前已有七家日本公司，如味噌厂商Marukome及零食与雪糕制造商江崎固力果（Ezaki Glico）等参与课程。它们也愿意与本地食品公司进行一对一的现场考察，提供专业建议。

贸工部兼文化、社区及青年部高级政务部长沈颖昨天见证签署仪式，她致辞时说：“通过合作备忘录，双方将能促进新加坡与

日本企业在食品科学技术领域的合作，并制定互惠互利的计划，以提高技术专长和知识交流。”

食品创新与资源中心于2007年成立，利用科技开发新产品或为产品增值，也推荐企业采纳合适的包装、改善工作流程、延长产品保质期等，加强中小企业的国际竞争力。

中心至今已协助超过620家公司，参与1000多个合作项目，其中有超过40%被采纳，并成功商业化。

◀◀ Summary of Chinese article

Locally invented capsule chicken soup as simple as capsule coffee

At SP's Food Innovation & Resource Centre (FIRC)

10th anniversary celebrations yesterday, six food products in the capsule format was unveiled. SP's FIRC has been working on the capsule technology since last year and the six products include herbal chicken soup, satay sauce, thai green curry and flavoured nut milk which is suitable for people who are lactose-intolerant. FIRC senior manager Dr Lee Mun Wai shared that capsule technology allows consumers to have ready to eat food, which traditionally takes hours to prepare, within minutes. FIRC is also signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japanese company ICMG to provide a food innovation platform where companies from Japan and Singapore can come together and share their innovative technologies.

林静雯 报道
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THE STRAITS TIMES | 11 MARCH 2011

Biomed Science student
Daniel Poh, interned at
HARVARD

Biotech student
Gan Sok Ting, interning at
STANFORD

Biotech student
Lee Jin, interning at
STANFORD



ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

Students at polys intern at top varsities

Schools say such schemes boost interest in research

BY AMELIA TAN

SINGAPORE Polytechnic (SP) biomedical science student Daniel Poh's 10-week internship at Harvard University last year marked many personal firsts.

It was his first trip to the US and his first taste of life as a stem-cell researcher. The second-year student spent 12 hours almost every day holed up in one of the labs at the Children's Hospital Boston, part of the Harvard Medical School.

He pored over petri dishes, read up on lab procedures and conducted experiments. When in doubt, he approached his mentor Dr Jonathan Loh, who is an SP alumnus and research fellow at the hospital, PhD students or lab technicians for help. Said the 21-year-old: "It was a truly eye-opening experience."

He said that at the polytechnic, he has a curriculum to follow with a series of experiments, the results of which could be predicted. "But in the lab, I did not know what to expect from my experiments," he said. "It was a lot of learning on my feet."

Bright students like Mr Poh are benefiting from their polytechnics' efforts to establish internships with top universities such as Harvard, Yale and Imperial College London.

There are more plans in the pipeline, with some polytechnics roping in lecturers and alumni to woo universities abroad.

Several of the existing internships are part of biomedical research programmes based in the universities' research facilities, where students work on projects under the guidance of professors and research fellows.

However, some have students venturing into the industry. For example, students work in hospitals as part of Nanyang Polytechnic's clinical attachment programmes with the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Sydney.

The polytechnics say they are setting up these internships to stretch their top students, some of whom could have secured spots in top-tier junior colleges (JCs) with their O-level scores.

They also believe stints at top overseas universities will give their students an edge when applying to universities for further studies.

Second-year SP biomedical science student Jaslyn Ng, 19, who had an O-level score of seven points and was selected for a Harvard internship last year, said: "I could have gone on to a top JC. But I was very clear a poly's specialised and hands-on education was what I wanted."

"And with opportunities like interning at Harvard, I feel I'm well prepared to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor."

SP principal Tan Hang Cheong said: "We want to inculcate an interest in scientific research among our brighter students. These top universities are known for their research programmes - and learning from renowned professors there will stir their curiosity in research."

Only a handful of students are selected for each of the internships each year. They must have sterling grades and impress their lecturers in interviews.

And more of them could soon be on the way. SP's School of Chemical and Life Sciences lecturer Dr Tan Eng Lee and Dr Loh, the Harvard research fellow, have set up internships at Harvard, Yale and Stanford. They are also in talks with another top American university.

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THE NEW PAPER | 11 MARCH 2017

Enhanced internships for Singapore Poly students

AFIQ ROSLAN

For 18 weeks, Mr Bryan Tan was paired up with a social worker from Sheng Hong Family Service Centre. He listened in on case sessions and case conferences and went on home visits.

During his internship, the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) student was tasked to observe and give his assessment of what he felt was going on with various families, applying the psychology theories he learnt in his pursuit of a diploma in applied drama and psychology (DADP).

His opinions carried weight, even though he was only an intern.

If he suspected family violence, child

protection officers would step in.

"In one case, my input prompted an intervention programme to help some unemployed people," said the 20-year-old final-year student.

Mr Tan's internship last year was part of a pilot programme organised by SP, which aims to roll out enhanced internships for DADP students.

SP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with six social and community service agencies yesterday.

"From now to September, we are hoping to get more partners on board the enhanced internship programme," said Ms June Wee, the DADP course manager.

The enhanced internship will provide students with partners from agencies who



DADP students Nursyairah Shahlihin and Bryan Tan (right) were in SP's pilot run of the enhanced internship. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

will train them on mentorship.

The students will also receive clearer learning objectives, which will be created by SP and the respective agencies.

Mrs Sara Tan, executive director for Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services, one of the agencies that signed the MOU, was encouraged by the commitment shown.

At a community event in Hougang, she watched a play by the interns that drew on the themes of family.

"I saw the beauty of the play and how it was able to make us reflect on sensitive topics," said Mrs Tan, 58.

"These students bring in a sense of energy as well as the knowledge in drama and psychology they learn from school."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 29 AUGUST 2015

Poly's tie-up with RWS gives students an edge in jobs

New programme will offer interns chance to work full-time at higher position and pay scale

Amelia Teng

Mr Shaun Lim will have an edge over his peers after finishing an internship at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), which begins next year.

The second-year tourism and resort management student at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) will have the chance to work full-time – at a higher position and pay scale – at the integrated resort after he graduates.

The 21-year-old is one of 11 students chosen for a new programme offered by SP and RWS that allows them to join the company at a more senior level after graduating.

Mrs Seah-Khoo Ee Boon, RWS' senior vice-president of human resources and communications, said they can earn at least 20 per cent more than their peers not in the programme, or about \$200 more.

Checks with the five polytechnics here found that this formal arrangement is the first among them. It is in line with the national SkillsFuture plan to equip students and workers with more specialised skills.

Currently, employers take on polytechnic graduates at a higher level on a case-by-case basis if they do well during their internships. Some graduates also join firms on manage-

ment trainee tracks where they are exposed to different roles, but not necessarily at a higher scale.

Under the latest tie-up, SP students will be assigned to two of RWS' three divisions – rooms, food and beverage, and attractions – starting next April. They could work in any of RWS' seven hotels or at places such as the Universal Studios Singapore theme park.

The stint will last a year, up from current hospitality and tourism attachments of three to six months.

After graduating, those in the programme can begin working at RWS at a non-entry level, giving them a one- to two-year head start in their careers, depending on their abilities and performance.

For instance, a graduate from the programme will join RWS as a guest service executive, a step higher than his or her peers who will enter as guest relations officers.

Likewise, in food and beverage, he could become a supervisor at the start rather than a captain, and in the attractions division, he could be a leader instead of a crew member.

Mr Lim said his priority is securing a full-time job after polytechnic. "I'm not very young as I went to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), so it's good that I don't have



BETTER ASSESSMENT

The longer the internships, the more willing our managers and supervisors will be to invest in interns. There'll be enough time to coach and train them, and we can also better assess their suitability for a permanent role.



MRS SEAH-KHOO EE BOON, RWS' senior vice-president of human resources and communications, on the internships

to start from the bottom," he said.

Mrs Seah-Khoo said that the latest arrangement is part of RWS' efforts to "grow a pipeline of skilled workers for the tourism industry".

It started in 2009 to tie up with institutions such as the polytechnics and the ITE on internships. It takes in more than 350 to 400 polytechnic interns a year.

Up to 70 per cent of them continue with the firm in part-time or full-time positions after their internships.

Said Mrs Seah-Khoo: "The longer the internships, the more willing our managers and supervisors will be to invest in interns.

"There'll be enough time to coach and train them, and we can also better assess their suitability for a permanent role."

Ms Emma Meyer, SP's course chair for the diploma in tourism and resort management, said more than 20 students applied for the new programme. Eleven were cho-

sen after two rounds of interviews.

Students who take up this longer internship will still graduate on time, as they are exempted from five modules – out of 33 in total – such as global business enterprise, gaming operations management and marketing intelligence research. Their content largely overlap with topics in other courses.

Said Ms Meyer: "The whole reason we're doing this is that we want to support the industry, to give them talent. It's a glamorous industry but very challenging, with long hours and dealing with guests. But the feeling of satisfaction and gratitude from guests is instant."

Ms Annie Ooi, 18, who also signed up for the internship, said she had always wanted to work in resorts or hotels as she enjoys communicating with people. "I hope to learn about the basic roles and slowly work my way up in the industry."

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Singapore Polytechnic students Shaun Lim and Annie Ooi will both be doing year-long internship stints at Resorts World Sentosa. ST PHOTO: LAU FOOK KONG

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 21 OCTOBER 2015

工学院生赴泰国参观 了解食品加工与安全

陈婧 报道
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学生要经过多道消毒工序,才能进入虾养殖场的大棚内,亲手接触小虾。(新加坡工学院提供)



从一个鸡蛋变成一块日式照烧鸡肉,要经过几个步骤?大家平时吃的白米、喝的牛奶,又要花多长时间来生产?

上个月底,34名来自新加坡理工学院化学与生命科学系的学生前往泰国,探寻餐桌上食物的源头,从中了解最新的食物加工技术与食品安全规格。

在12天的学习之旅中,学生参观了CP食品公司旗下的虾、肉鸡和肉猪养殖场和加工厂、白米和牛奶加工厂,也到当地大学进行访问交流。这是CP食品和新加坡工学院第二年开展这类合作项目。

学生对食品加工有更深体会

作为本区域规模最大的食品制造商之一,CP食品的各条产品线都拥有从养殖、收成、加工再到产品包装的一条龙生产过程,这让生产过程更标准划一,也能确保食物品质。亲眼目睹食品生产过程中的各个工序,让工学院学生对自身专业知识有了更深的体会。

食品科学与科技专业学生蔡昌谔(18岁)说,在参观虾养殖场前,他对“养虾”的印象仅限于在本地钓虾场所看到的情景,“一个大池里养了许多小虾”。没想到在参观养虾厂的“大池”时,还要经过换衣、洗手和过消毒池等多道杀菌工序,才能亲眼见到虾苗。

“在养虾厂看到不同虾苗的分类养殖,然后通过科学调配饲料、隔绝外界细菌,确保虾苗健康成长,我才体会到‘养虾’不是想象中简单,而是真的像课本上所说的,每一个步骤都有严格的要求。”

修读营养与健康文凭课程的林佩颖(21岁)也通过这次参观改变了原有的职业规划想法。她说:“我们专业的毕业生,不少都在医疗保健行业工作。但这次

旅行让我了解到营养与保健知识在食品生产过程中也发挥重要作用。更科学的生产过程,能为消费者提供更健康、更有营养的食物。这个发现扩展了我的职业前景。”

在CP食品的肉鸡养殖和加工厂,学生观察到鸡蛋如何孵化成小鸡,小鸡又是怎样饲养长大、送进加工车间进行宰割、拔毛、杀菌、切块、包装的完整过程。在鸡肉加工的10多道工序中,仅有切块和包装这两个步骤有大批人员参与,其余工序全由自动化机械完成。如此高效的生产流程,令就读食品科学与科技的范嘉慧(18岁)印象深刻。

泰国是发展中国家,我没想到这里的自动化程度竟然这么先进,连质量检查等工序都由机器负责。这让我大开眼界,也了解到课本上所学的专业知识如何应用到现实生活中。”

泰食品生产加工工业发达

化学与生命科学系高级讲师朱燕心指出,泰国食品生产和加工业规模庞大,技术发达,学生能观察到许多在本地难得一见的生产流程,这有助于加深和巩固他们对课堂知识的理解。

“百闻不如一见。学生们亲自接触大米、鸡肉、香肠等食品的生产过程,看着这些原材料如何一步一步地加工成销往各国的产品,他们就能深切体会到食品科学、安全、营养学等知识是如何融入不同的工序中,也为日后进入这一领域工作打下基础。”

CP食品新加坡公司副总裁叶树芬说,公司不仅和新加坡工学院联办学习之旅,也为学生提供在本地实习的机会。“我们希望通过与学校加强合作,进一步提高产品研发水平,并为农牧业和食品业培养下一代企业领袖。”

Summary of Chinese article

Polytechnic students learn about food processing safety in Thailand

SP's School of Chemical & Life Sciences organised a 12-day overseas immersion programme to Thailand where 34 SP's Diploma in Food Science and Technology (DFST) and Diploma in Health, Nutrition and Wellness (DHNW) students visited farms and factories of CP Group as well as a local university to learn more about food processing and food safety.

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 06 MAY 2017



Mr Sheikh Harun Mohammad Rafik decided to make a mid-career switch to the maritime and offshore industry, even though he had a master's in sports science and was a national silat coach. ST PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI

Individuals should take charge of own learning journey: Iswaran

AARON CHAN

Educational institutions and industries must work closely to ensure that knowledge acquired and skills developed remain relevant to changing needs of the economy.

But even as they evolve, individuals must take ownership of their own learning journey and to forge their future, said Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry). "Rapid technological advancements are fundamentally changing the nature of our economy and the work that we do. To stay competitive and continue to create good jobs for our people, industries have to restructure, business models must adapt, and Singaporeans need to acquire new skills," he said.

This was his message to the 651 adult graduates from Singapore Polytechnic's (SP) Continuing Education and Training courses who

were receiving their diplomas and certificates at a ceremony at SP's Convention Centre yesterday. This year, 5,600 students from SP will be receiving their full-time and part-time diplomas and certificates.

While reiterating points made earlier this week by Manpower Minister Lim Swee Say and Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Chan Chun Sing, Mr Iswaran said: "The basic issue that we face today is not an insufficiency of jobs, we are creating ample jobs, the challenge is really in the mismatch of skills and how we can bridge that."

He said technological developments have changed the nature of Singapore's economy and the jobs that are created. These jobs require a new set of skills and proficiencies, and a willingness by the workforce to acquire them to meet the changing needs of the industry.

Mr Iswaran added that it is the collective effort of all stakeholders, including employers, workers, government agencies and educational institutions, to work together to create a "comprehensive eco-system for the continuous development of skills".

Citing the successful collaboration between SP Professional and Adult Continuing Education (Pace) Academy, Workforce Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore and the industry to promote the development of a skilled and future-ready workforce, Mr Iswaran encouraged more of such partnerships.

Individuals like Mr Sheikh Harun Mohammad Rafik, 36, who made a mid-career switch and sought relevant upgrading, were commended by Mr Iswaran.

Despite having a master's in sports science, Mr Sheikh Harun, who was a national silat coach, moved into the maritime and offshore industry as he had an interest in it and had relatives working in the industry. Last year, he pursued a Diploma (Conversion) in Shipping and Marine Offshore, hoping to gain more knowledge and interact with people from the industry. He is now a technical and operations executive with a maritime firm.

"I have always believed in continuous learning and having this diploma gives me more confidence," he said. "It shows my bosses that I'm very serious about this industry and hopefully will be able to pick up more skills soon."

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LIANHE ZAOBAO | 22 MAY 2017

报读短期课程者一年内增一至三成

我国近年来吹起“持续教育风潮”，受访学府提供的数据显示，为方便在职人士上班之余进修而设的课程，报读人数近一年来增加一到三成。校方也计划推出更多科目，以应付需求。

李锦松 报道
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42岁的邓雋铨拥有南洋理工大学的信息学硕士文凭，从事软件开发工作已超过12年。不过，科技资讯相关领域发展迅速，例如近年来日益盛行的手机应用知识，他却是相当缺乏。

为了确保能跟上公司的业务发展，邓雋铨去年4月报读新加坡理工学院成人专业继续教育学院（PACE Academy）的手机应用单元课程。课程为期六个月，学生每星期需上一次课，每堂课时长三小时。

我国近年来吹起了一股“持续教育风潮”，像邓雋铨这样到本地大专学府选修短期单元课程（Modular Courses）的在职人士也有增加趋势。

受访学府提供的数据显示，这类为方便工作者上班之余进修而设的课程，报读人数近一年来增加一到三成。校方预计未来几年会有更多人修读短期单元课程，并计划推出更多科目以应付需求。

新加坡理工学院去年下半年起推出单元课程供工作人士修读，目前有102个科目。新工院发言人说，随着人们对单元课程认识的提升，学院预计每年将有约500名学生报读这类课程。

报读大学或专业文凭时 可用学分抵消部分科目

新工院将按各领域的需求，为专业人士、经理、执行人员和技师（PMET）设计一系列单元课程，内容范围涵盖网络安全及生物医药等。

提供超过260个单元课程的工艺教育学院也说，去年报读这类课程的学生人数比前年多一成。

另外，向来致力为成人学习者提供部分时间与全日制课程的新跃社科大学（Singapore University Of Social Sciences，简称SUSS）提供超过500个单元课程，供在职工作者选修。

跃大发言人说，学校2015年1月开始的学期有83人报读这类课程，今年1月开始的学期则有184人，增幅超过一倍。

大专学府开办的短期单元课程一般为期三到六个月，主要对象为成年在职人士。学生每完成一个单元便可获得学分，日后报读大学或专业文凭，可在符合条件的情况下，用所累积的学分抵消部分课程科目。

离开校园多年后重返课堂，上班族需要重新适应学生的角色。邓雋铨受访时说，他原先不确定自己是否能应付课程。

“毕竟已经这么久没回学校读书了，我担心边工作边上课会应接不暇……不过还好课程晚上7点开始，我能在下班后才去学校，每星期上一次课，不至于太疲劳。”

邓雋铨说，课程让他掌握手机应用设计与开发的入门认识，对他的工作有很大帮助。

“公司近年来致力开发手机应用，以改善生产力，同时为客户提供更多便利……我掌握的相关技能能派上用场，让我继续在公司发展事业。”

有了半工半读经验的邓雋铨如今已报读新



邓雋铨拥有超过12年的软件开发工作经验，但为了跟上公司业务发展，他报读了新加坡理工学院成人专业继续教育学院的手机应用单元课程。（陈渊庄摄）

工院的智能城市数码科技专科文凭（Specialist Diploma in Digital Technologies for a Smart City），以应付未来工作所需。

除了因工作需求前去进修，也有人因为个人爱好而报读短期单元课程。

梁亚才（59岁，电子工程师）向来热爱摄影，但从未接受过正式培训。他在去年9月报读跃大的数码摄影科技单元课程，紧接着又报读数码摄影技术科目。

他说，课程让学生透过在线教学完成部分课业，他无须从工作地点赶往学校上课。

“讲师透过实时视频教课，我们也能将视频录下来，以便过后参考……这不仅让我省下亲自到学校上课的麻烦，也能让学习进度较慢的人用视频复习。”

梁亚才说，课程除了加深自己对摄影的爱好，也帮助他更好地利用图片呈现工作报告。

Summary of Chinese article

Increase in people taking up short modular courses

Teng Chun Hwa is a 42 year old software developer who took on a modular course at SP's PACE Academy. Chun Hwa has background knowledge in software development but did not have specific knowledge on mobile development which his company was venturing into. Modular courses at PACE Academy allowed him to learn more about the industry and upgrade his skills without taking up too much time. After being inspired by the course, he has subsequently enrolled for SP's part-time Specialist Diploma in Digital Technologies for a Smart City course earlier this year.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 17 FEBRUARY 2017

Polys, unis to run more modular courses

Bite-size programmes offer flexibility to working adults seeking higher qualifications

Calvin Yang

Hoping to stay competitive in his job despite various commitments and a busy schedule, engineer Mohamed Johannes Wahid took up a modular course in maritime and offshore operations two years ago.

The 36-year-old, who learnt about the various activities carried out in the oil and gas industry and the financial and safety requirements, completed the short course at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) last April, after about five months. He now applies what he learnt in the classroom to his job in a subsea services company.

Mr Johannes, who has two children and is expecting a third, said: "I believe lifelong learning is better in short courses as working adults... may not be able to commit to

long-term programmes."

Singaporeans hoping to stay relevant in a fast-evolving economy can look forward to more bite-sized courses which make it easier for them to learn at their own pace.

These skill-based modular courses, aimed at working adults, may be stacked up towards qualifications such as diplomas and degrees.

There were 513 modular courses last year, up from 338 in 2015. On average, these courses, offered at polytechnics and universities, can be completed in three to six months.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will work with institutions to offer more of such courses this year. It said such courses offer flexibility to those juggling their desire to upgrade themselves with personal and work commitments.

"Enrolment is... steadily rising," MOE added. "Beyond modularity, it



Despite having family commitments and a busy work schedule, engineer Mr Johannes managed to upgrade himself by completing a five-month modular course in maritime and offshore operations two years ago. ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

is more important the courses meet industry needs," it said.

The ministry noted institutions need to keep abreast of industry changes and rope in practitioners to help them develop relevant courses.

Institutes of higher learning are seeing growing demand for these courses. Some institutions, such as SP, National University of Singapore and Nanyang Polytechnic, said that short courses which can count towards diplomas or degrees are an incentive for workers to keep learning.

Others, such as the Singapore Management University, Republic Polytechnic and the Singapore Institute of Technology, said the flexibility these options offer is a draw.

Helping workers acquire and use deep skills was one of the seven strategies spelt out by the Committee on the Future Economy to prepare Singaporeans for future challenges.

As jobs are likely to change at a fast pace, "we must go beyond the pur-

suit of the highest possible academic qualifications early in life, to seek knowledge, experience and skills throughout life", said its report.

It admitted that there would be a challenge in acquiring such skills as working adults would have to balance personal development with other priorities. That is where modular courses could be one of the ways to enable them to get up to speed in a world of constant disruptions.

Several institutions, such as SIM

University and Ngee Ann Polytechnic, explained that a fast-changing economy means new jobs and new competencies are needed.

Mr John Leong, director of Temasek Polytechnic's Temasek SkillsFuture Academy, said modular courses offer options for workers to undergo targeted training. "Individuals customise a learning pathway that best suits their needs."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 23 AUGUST 2016

Talent pipeline for energy and chemicals sector

New earn and learn programme aims to draw poly grads to one of the 'backbone industries'

Carolyn Khew

A scheme was launched yesterday to ensure a pipeline of talent for the energy and chemicals sector, one of Singapore's "backbone industries".

The SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme for the sector will enable polytechnic graduates to earn an advanced diploma as well as a monthly wage.

This will help "prevent leakages" in the industry, said Mr Erman Tan, president of the Singapore Human Resources Institute, referring to those who take up a polytechnic course or job in the sector only to

realise it is not their cup of tea.

"The programme will provide early exposure to those who are interested in joining the industry," he said, adding that participants get a chance to see what the industry is like, while employers can get a feel of potential recruits and give feedback to the polytechnics.

The latest earn and learn scheme adds to programmes in other sectors such as aerospace and food manufacturing. By the year end, there will be 40 of these programmes, the first of which started last year.

Those who graduate from the 18-month energy and chemicals sector scheme will be exempted

from selected modules if they later pursue a related degree at the National University of Singapore or the Singapore Institute of Technology-Newcastle University.

The new programme has signed up 26 participants already, including Ms Masyitah Hasunah, 20, a chemical engineering polytechnic graduate who is now a process technician with Shell Jurong Island.

"I wanted to gain experience rather than continue my degree doing something I'm not sure about," she said.

The energy and chemicals sector programme, which is led by Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and supported by the Workforce Development Agency, is open to those who have graduated from selected polytechnic courses. Applicants should not have graduated or finished their



Ms Masyitah showing Mr Ong some skills she picked up under the new SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

last day of national service for more than five years.

Participants will attend lessons at SP, get trained on the job and be mentored by their employers. They will be paid a starting base salary of \$1,400 to \$2,000 a month with a shift allowance of \$800 to \$1,100.

Those who graduate from the programme will receive an Advanced Diploma in Chemical Engineering awarded by SP.

Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Ong Ye Kung, who launched the programme at Pulau Bukom yesterday,

said it is important to have SkillsFuture initiatives in the energy and chemicals sector. "While we talk about disruption, technological advancement, all the current backbone industries continue to be extremely important," he said.

Last year, output from the energy and chemicals sector accounted for nearly \$282 billion or 29 per cent of Singapore's total manufacturing output. The sector has more than 40,000 employees and is poised to grow further.

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LIANHE ZAOBAO | 25 MARCH 2017

工院和e2i合作开课培训学生及白领



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新加坡理工学院与全国职工总会就业与职能培训中心合作，加强学生与白领工作者的技能培训，包括为学生而设的就业准备活动，以及开办供白领工作者深化技能的课程。

双方昨日签署备忘录，展开为期三年的合作。其中，工会会员到新加坡工院上课可获得资助，如果累积足够学分，更可获得专业文凭。

专业人士、经理、执行人员与技师 (PMET) 可选择只上一些课程单元深化技能，或用三年到五年 (按课程而定) 完成所有单元，以获取专业文凭。

这些课程涵盖的领域有商学、化学与生物科学、土木工程、电气与电子工程、海事学、机械工程，以及媒体与科技。

提供资助及降低门槛

工会会员可利用职总会员培训援助计划 (UTAP)，就未获津贴部分的学费享有高达50%的津贴 (每年上限为250元)。若课程在“技能创前程”课程名单上，也可用技能创前程补助金 (SkillsFuture credit) 抵消学费。

新加坡工院旗下的专业人士与成人继续教育学院将为工会会员增设102个课程单

元，使得职总会员培训援助计划适用的课程单元共计230个。

就业与职能培训中心 (e2i) 总裁陈财喜接受《联合早报》访问时说：“除了提供资助，我们还得降低受训门槛。”

他指出，不同年龄层的人学习方式不同，就白领工作者而言，把课程内容分成单元授课，能让他们更容易吸收。此外，课程也结合线上与线下元素，让学员容易在通勤或课堂以外的时间复习功课。

7月办职场浸化课

学生方面，就业与职能培训中心今年7

月将为即将参与新加坡工院旗下在职培训计划 (Earn and Learn) 的学员推出一项为时一天的课程，帮助他们为在职培训做好心理准备。

这个“职场浸化课程” (Career Excellence Immersion Programme)，让学员有机会与业界导师交流，听导师分享对行业趋势的见解，并学习如何调整心态。

此外，通过就业与职能培训中心的安排，新加坡工院学生与校友也有机会参与定期举办的分享会，与业界领导人交流，获取与就业相关的资讯。



Summary of Chinese article

Singapore Polytechnic and e2i collaborate to train students and PMETs

SP and e2i signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance and boost the competencies and employability of graduates and PMETs. The three-year partnership will allow union members to attain new industry-relevant skills under the Union Training Assistance Programme (UTAP). Under the MoU, a new Career Excellence Immersion Programme by e2i will be rolled out in July 2017 to graduates embarking on the SkillsFuture Earn & Learn Programmes (ELP) managed by SP. This is a first of its kind industry-specific programme to drive job-ready capabilities at the tertiary level.

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 20 OCTOBER 2017

红十字会与新加坡理工联办人道救援课程

许翔宇 报道
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有兴趣投入人道主义救援工作的公众，明年可修读一项由新加坡红十字会和新加坡理工学院联合推出的人道援助持续教育和培训课程，加强对赈灾组织运作的了解，以及掌握灾区救援及善后重建等方面的知识。

新加坡红十字会学院院长菲莎（Faiszah Abdul Hamid）受访时说，本地和区域救援组织目前开办的人道援助课程一般针对某个课题，例如赈灾或筹款行动等，这项新的持续教育与培训课程（Continuing Education and Training，简称CET），相信会是东南亚首个从救援人员、决策者及科技应用等层面，较全面探讨人道救援课题的专业文凭课程。

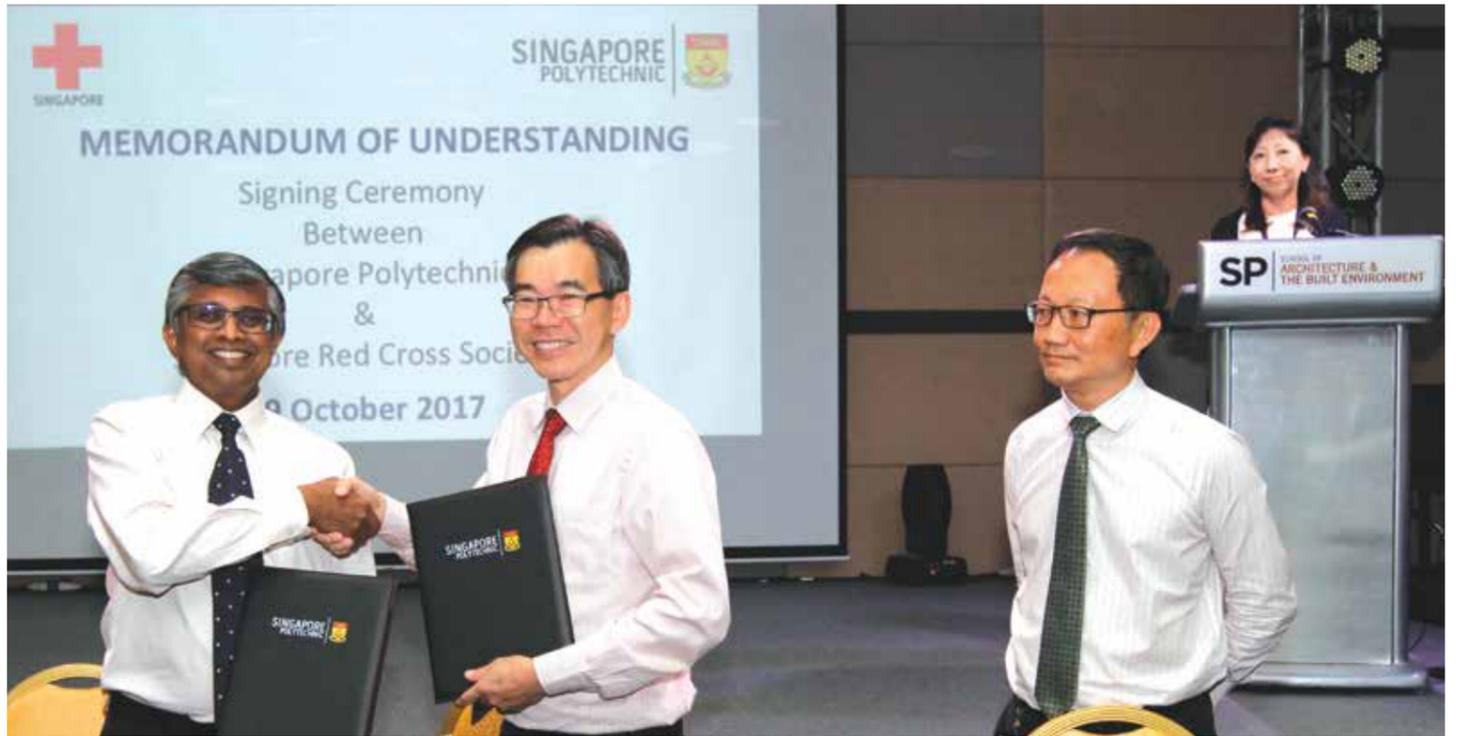
这项CET课程预计明年5月开课。它让学员每完成一个单元课就获颁一份证书，完成所有单元课获颁一份专业文凭。课程预计有三至四个单元，估计要一年至一年半时间完成。

除了上述CET课程，新加坡红十字会和新加坡理工学院昨天签署为期两年的合作备忘录，也包括携手为新加坡理工学院学生开办一项“人道主义事务专业文凭增进课程”（Diploma-Plus Certificate Programme in Humanitarian Affairs）。课程昨晚开课。

“专业文凭增进课程”是新加坡理工学院学生自己专业文凭课程以外，额外修读的一项证书课程。

这项证书课程由红十字会救援人员，以及新加坡理工学院建筑学及建筑环境学院讲师联合指导，共有三个单元，即人道救援简介、国际赈灾行动，以及募款和同利益相关者维持关系。学生还会到一个东南亚国家，同红十字会伙伴合作推行社区援助项目。课程吸引120人报名，32人录取。

新加坡红十字会秘书长班杰明·威廉（Benjamin William）致辞时说，同新加坡理



道救援工作。“人道救援领域正迅速转变。我们面对越来越严重及复杂的灾难。自然灾害的破坏往往因人为因素而加剧。让年轻人了解红十字会及其他救援组织所面对的挑战，是很重要的。”

新加坡理工学院院长苏卫华说，我国向来对遭受灾难的发展中国家伸出援手，这项合作重新肯定了工院推动社区服务的信念，也能进一步培养学生成为关心区域受灾人士的全球公民。

Summary of Chinese article

SINGAPORE RED CROSS AND SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC COLLABORATES

SP and Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has collaborated to provide a **Diploma-Plus Certificate Programme in Humanitarian Affairs** for students who are interested in humanitarian work. Through the programme, students will learn how a relief organization works and be equipped with basic architectural knowledge such as building shelters.

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 02 NOVEMBER 2017

新理工与南大推出20个课程 助员工掌握先进制造技能

周文龙 报道
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新加坡理工学院和南洋理工大学，将根据先进制造技术发展，推出一系列新兴技能课程，以协助员工掌握相关职业技能，为制造业转型做充分准备。

新理工会推出超过20个先进制造新技能课程，目标是接下来五年培养6000名全职和兼职文凭的先进制造技术学员。

贸工部兼国家发展部高级政务部长许宝琨昨天在新理工一项活动中，做出以上宣布。

他说：“随着我国往先进制造领域发展，将出现许多新工作，它们都需要员工具备新专业技能。我们要提升员工技能，以胜任这些工作。”

先进制造新技能课程旨在培养拥有如物联网（Internet-of-Things）和机器人管理等相关技能的劳动队伍。这支劳动队伍对未来数码科技充满信心，能通过采纳先进制造技术，推动新加坡迈向更高增值制造活动。

这系列课程将分为基础、中级和高级课程等三种水平，并可结合短期和单元课程，让学员最终获取部分时间专业文凭（parttime diploma）或专科文凭。

这些课程已获得24家中小企业和跨国公司在进行近300小时咨询后所验证。它们也得到新加坡经济发展局（EDB）和精深技能发展局（SkillFuture Singapore）支持。

许宝琨说：“员工需要对数码科技充满信心。这意味着他们能彼此进行远程协作和沟通，使用数码工具做出决策和解决问题，并跟机器人密切合作。在一些工作中，数据分析和编程知识也会变得至关重要。”

先进制造新技能课程属于技能创前程新技能系列（SkillsFuture Series）课程的一部分，后者由精深局在上周推出，是根据政府确定的八个新兴领域而推出的短期课程。除了先进制造技术外，其他新兴领域还包括数据分析、金融、科技化服务、数码媒体、网络安全、创业及城市方案。

这系列课程主要由六所公立大学、五所理工学院，及工艺教育学院等12所学府提供，目前已有超过400个课程开放报名。

精深局未来三年将斥资超过7000万元在这系列课程。该局估计，到了2020年，估计每年会有5万人从这些课程中受惠。

企业员工可报读的先进制造新技能课程



初级

- 制造业的数码转型
- 建立物联网项目
- 人工智能和机器学习



中级

- 利用机器人提高生产力
- 云计算的使用
- 电脑网络与安全



高级

- 电脑操控系统
- 先进机械流程
- 程序控制工程

资料来源 / 新加坡理工学院

Summary of Chinese article

SP and NTU leads SkillsFuture series in Advanced Manufacturing

SP and NTU will be leading the SkillsFuture Series for the Advanced Manufacturing industry. SP will launch more than 20 Advanced Manufacturing courses for 6000 full-time and part-time learners within the next five years. Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry Dr Koh Poh Koon shared the importance of upskilling the workforce and preparing them for the future.

The SkillsFuture Series courses will be split into three proficiency levels – basic, intermediate and advanced. These courses are a combination of both short standalone courses and modules stackable towards formal qualifications such as a part-time Diploma or Specialist Diploma. The courses were validated after more than 300 hours of consultation with 24 Small Media Enterprises and Multi-National Companies from various manufacturing industries and are supported by Economic Development Board and SkillsFuture Singapore. Courses under the SkillsFuture Series will be provided by six autonomous universities, the five polys and the Institute of Technical Education.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 02 JULY 2016

CHARTING HER OWN COURSE

Yong just wants to go to Rio to measure her progress on the world stage

Yogaraj Panditurai

By the time Olympic windsurfer Audrey Yong's interview with The Straits Times at the National Sailing Centre had ended at 5.15pm yesterday, she had already spent three hours chatting with the media.

Prior to that, the 21-year-old also went out to sea for an hour so that photographers could snap her in action.

She had to cram all that in before her midnight flight to Rio de Janeiro to join the Team Singapore sailors for a training stint before the Aug5-21 Games.

Despite her hectic day, Yong did not let fatigue faze her and was chirpy when she spoke, remaining her bubbly and jovial self.

The 21-year-old, who had put sailing on the back-burner since March to focus on her internship with Marina Bay Sands, said: "I can't believe I got the news about Rio just last week- it feels like months ago. This past week has been a never-ending string of events and it feels like I haven't stopped moving ever since."

"I had to go through vaccinations, doctors' appointments, interviews, photo shoots, training sessions and even had a competition."

"Every night, I just want to sleep and try not to think about tomorrow because it'll be another hectic day ahead."

Yong was a late addition to the Republic's sailing contingent after she was nominated by the Singapore Sailing Federation to take up the unused women's RS:X quota place awarded by world governing body World Sailing.

Her nomination was endorsed by the Singapore National Olympic Council last week, bringing the total number of sailors bound for Brazil to 10 across six classes.

The final-year Singapore Polytechnic hotel management student will be the first Singapore woman windsurfer to compete in the Summer Games. Team-mate Leonard Ong, the country's first Olympic male windsurfer since 1984, also flew to Rio with Yong last night.

The reigning SEA Games champion and 2010 Youth Olympic Games bronze medallist said: "It's a big honour to sail as Singapore's first female windsurfer in the Olympics."

"I hope this brings windsurfing here to new heights and in the future, people will be able to continue in the sport so this is a form of awareness also."

Even though this will be her Olympic debut, Yong is not intimidated by the other competitors in her class - most of whom are seasoned Olympians and world champions.

"Windsurfing is an unpredictable sport. I've heard from the other sailors over there that the course is also tricky," she added. "In windsurfing, you may be the best person in the whole pack but one wrong decision will leave you for dead. Everyone's on an equal playing field."

"When it comes to the Olympics, it's usually the smartest sailors who make the least mistakes who will win - it all boils down to that. For myself, I just want to go out there and see how far I've progressed as a sailor on the world stage."



Windsurfer Audrey Yong, 21, who says hers is an "unpredictable sport", is not intimidated by the opposition at the Rio Olympics. ST PHOTO: SEAH KWANG PENG

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SURREAL

I can't believe I got the news about Rio just last week- it feels like months ago. The past week has been a never-ending string of events and it feels like I haven't stopped moving ever since.

AUDREYYONG, a late addition to the Olympic sailing contingent.

A community club for Peranakans

Diploma in Architecture (DARCH) graduate Lu Quan Le designed a community club for Peranakans. Each graduate in the DARCH cohort designed their own proposal for a modern community centre to improve social interaction among Singaporeans. Their projects were featured at Edition 15.9, an annual exhibition featuring graduating SP students' design and architecture projects.

Summary of Chinese article

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 6 APRIL 2015

新加坡工学院毕业生设计土生华人民众俱乐部

修读建筑系的卢全乐设计出融入土生华人文化的民众俱乐部，他坦言过程不易，作品也经过多番修改。（程友明摄）



陈美谕 报道
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理工学院学生构想出地下纪念馆，让人们可在更善用土地的情况下，追忆已故亲人。

这是新加坡理工学院毕业展上其中一名学生的参展作品，今年共有270名学生的作品展出。这些学生来自视觉传播与媒体设计、室内设计、园林设计 (Landscape Architecture)，以及电玩设计与开发 (Games Design & Development) 等课程。

修读视觉传播与媒体设计的陈亮莹 (19岁) 和胡慷仙 (23岁) 从 Something Old Something New (简称SOSN) 这家专卖二手货的社会企业获得启发。他们有感这家由四美关怀中心成立的SOSN已经营业了15年，但顾客群仍局限在熟客，因此希望为本地二手货商店加强宣传。

陈亮莹说：“虽然我住在白沙，但之前并不知道SOSN的一家分店就在我家附近，所以重新打造品牌是必要的。我们设计了一系列宣传短片和海报等，希望可以吸引喜欢逛二手货商店的人。”

对土生华人文化情有独钟的建筑系学生卢全乐 (20岁) 则设计了融入文化特色的民众俱乐部。

他说：“其实设计建筑物非常复杂，除了要注意外观，内部安全措施如逃生道也必须考虑在内。”

学生作品即日起在麦士威路的市建局中心大堂展出至本月10日，入场免费。

THE NEW PAPER | 13 JULY 2017

Youngest lab head among NHG's Young Achiever Award winners

CHARMAINE SOH

At 30, Ms Serene Kho became the youngest head of laboratory at National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD) two years ago.

Ms Kho, who oversees a team of 25, all older than her, told The New Paper yesterday: "Initially, I felt worried and it was challenging, especially in terms of earning the seniors' trust and respect.

"It took time, but the effort is worth it, especially with such a great team now."

For her work at NHGD, she was given an NHG Young Achiever Award with nine others yesterday.

Ms Kho did an internship stint at NHG while studying biomedical science at Singapore Polytechnic, and joined as a junior medical technician in May 2005.

Under her leadership, NHGD's laboratories initiated more efficient and convenient services for both patients and caregivers.

Last August, Ms Kho set up the Home Phlebotomy team, which visits wheelchair- and bed-bound

patients to draw blood for laboratory tests.

The medical technologist also meets patients and interacts with them.

She said: "Especially for regular patients, we build a bond when we chit-chat and share our life stories."

Being able to contribute to society gives her job meaning, and she sees herself staying in health-care for years to come.

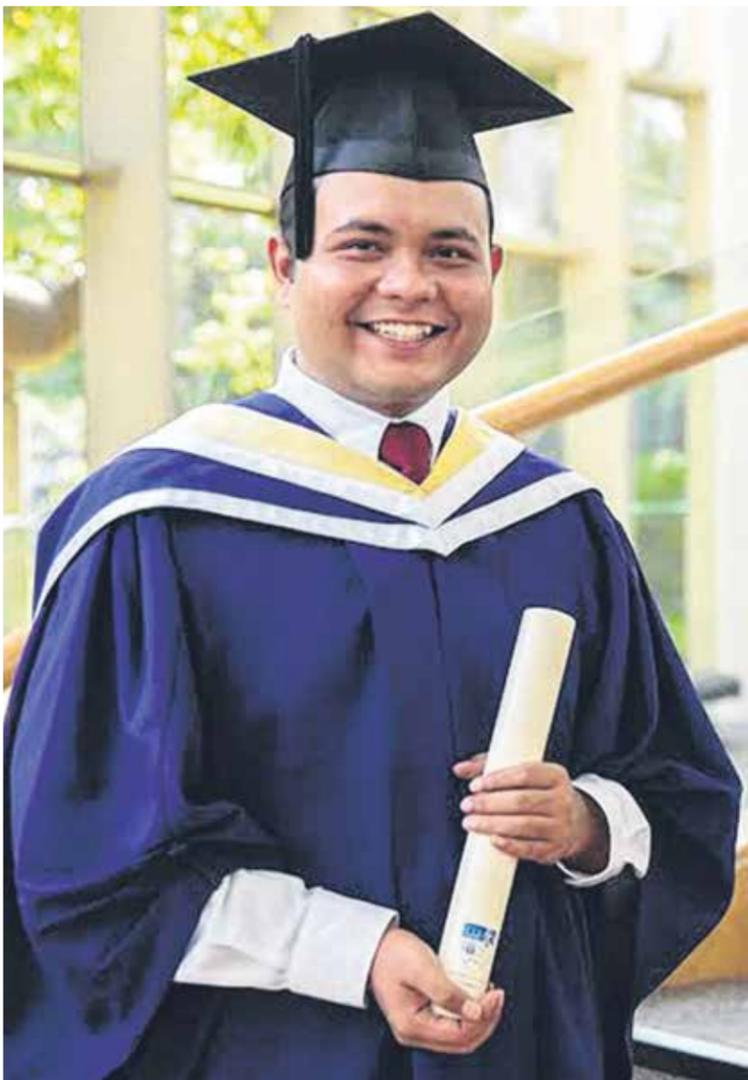
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Under Ms Serene Kho's leadership, NHGD's labs initiated more efficient and convenient services. PHOTO: NHG

BERITA HARIAN | 12 JULY 2017

Cemerlang dek sokongan famili dan lawan rasa malu



GANJARAN TABAH PERTINGKAT DIRI: Encik Muhammad Khairul Anwar Jamil melanjutkan pelajaran ke politeknik dan bekerja keras hingga mendapat keputusan cemerlang dan layak ke NUS – dan mengulangi usaha serta pencapaian itu di universiti. – Foto-foto NUS

KEPUTUSAN peperiksaan GCE 'A' beliau tidak memuaskan. Ia membuat beliau malu.

Setelah menjalani Perkhidmatan Negara (NS) selepas tamat pengajian di Maktab Rendah Victoria, Encik Muhammad Khairul Anwar Jamil, mendapati sukar mendapatkan pekerjaan dengan sijil yang mengecewakan itu.

Ini membangkitkan semangat beliau mahu mengenggam diploma.

Encik Muhammad Khairul memberanikan diri dan mengetepikan rasa malu untuk meneruskan pengajian di peringkat diploma.

Usaha itu ternyata berbaloi – beliau berjaya di politeknik hingga layak memasuki Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) dan akhirnya lulus dengan kepujian-kecemerlangan tertinggi, iaitu serupa kepujian kelas pertama.

"Memang pada awalnya saya

sendiri ragu-ragu (untuk memasuki politeknik). Malu pun ada. Maklumlah, pelajar tahun pertama di politeknik pastinya yang jauh lebih muda daripada saya," ujar Encik Muhammad Khairul, 28 tahun.

Bagaimanapun, anak sulung dalam kalangan lima adik-beradik itu melawan perasaan malu itu dan, dengan sokongan padu keluarga, beliau mengikuti pengajian kejuruteraan mekanikal di Politeknik Singapura.

"Ada daripada adik-beradik saya sudah mula bekerja, walhal saya sebagai anak sulung masih menuntut. Sepatutnya, saya sudah mula menyumbang kembali kepada keluarga.

"Tetapi saya amat bersyukur, keluarga saya amat memahami dan sering memberikan kata-kata perangsang kepada saya sehingga saya dipilih menjadi valediktorian apabila tamat pengajian di politeknik," kongsi anak

bujang itu.

Anak pasangan pemandu teksi dan suri rumah itu sudah ditawarkan pekerjaan sebagai jurutera mekanikal di salah sebuah syarikat khidmat medan minyak terbesar di dunia.

Encik Muhammad Khairul akan ke Ecuador bulan depan bagi memulakan pekerjaannya.

Beliau menasihatkan siswazah yang baru lulus daripada universiti supaya tidak putus asa dalam usaha mencari pekerjaan.

"Memang kelayakan akademik penting, tetapi daripada pengalaman saya memohon pekerjaan, saya mendapati majikan bukan melihat kejayaan akademik sahaja.

"Seingat saya, ada pemohon yang mempunyai keputusan jauh lebih baik daripada saya. Tetapi akhirnya, majikan juga melihat personaliti dan nilai positif yang ada pada seseorang pemohon pekerjaan," kata beliau.

▲ Summary of Malay article

PARENTS SUPPORT ENABLED HIS SUCCESS

SP's **Diploma in Mechanical Engineering** graduate Muhammad Khairul Anwar Jamil, recently graduated from NUS. Khairul scored poorly in his A levels and went on to complete his National Service (NS). After NS, Khairul found it difficult to get a job after National Service, and this led him to SP. Due to his excellent results at SP, Khairul was chosen as the valedictorian during his poly graduation and expressed his gratitude towards his encouraging and understanding parents.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 17 JULY 2017



Mr Mohammad Syafiq Mohammad Suhaini, 26, is a Nanyang Technological University sociology graduate waiting to start his master's in sociology at Oxford University, after which he will take up a job as a research officer. ST PHOTO: ONG WEE JIN

Charting his own course

He makes good, heeding mum's advice to help himself and do his best after a lacklustre PSLE

Sue-Ann Tan

When Mr Mohammad Syafiq Mohammad Suhaini got 198 points for his Primary School Leaving Examination, his mother gave him a dressing down.

It was not the scolding but what his mother, a retired administrative support worker, said later that stuck with him. "In the end, she told me I had to help myself and do my best... We were on our own and had to chart our own destination," he recalled.

These solemn words stayed with him and made the younger of two children realise that he had to take responsibility for his own future.

"I was dying to show myself that I could do it. If I don't do it now, I will never do it, and I will live with the disappointment all my life," he said.

Now 26, he is a Nanyang Technological University (NTU) sociology graduate waiting to start his master's in sociology at Oxford University. Upon completing his studies, he will take up a research officer job at the ISEAS - Yusof Ishak In-

stitute, which is sponsoring his studies in Oxford.

Mr Syafiq is surprised by his own achievements, considering how he had struggled with subjects like mathematics.

During his early years at Siglap Secondary, he was playful and easily distracted, but a teacher got him to take more interest in his schoolwork. "He made me realise I could do it if I put in the effort," he said of the teacher, who he remembered only as a Mr Tan.

Although Mr Syafiq did well enough to qualify for junior college, he opted to study mass communication at Singapore Polytechnic. "It gave me more liberty to play around with the subjects, discuss and debate issues. It was really an eye-opener," he said.

His love for debating and taking different perspectives on issues was reinforced by his decision to study sociology in NTU. "Sociology helped me to study society and see things in new ways. It allowed me to challenge normal perspectives, and gave me the space to ask ques-

tions, speak out and ultimately see how I could contribute back."

On weekends, he would volunteer at Darul Ghufuran Mosque in Tampines, Malay-Muslim organisation Perdaus and non-profit youth organisation Majulah Community.

He taught and mentored about 60 students, mostly from the Normal stream, polytechnics and the Institute of Technical Education.

Mr Syafiq is especially passionate about erasing the stigma of negativity around his charges.

"They are told they have no future and, as a mentor, I want to change that. Even if they don't have big dreams, at least they learn to dream," he added.

Mr Syafiq himself never thought his dreams of doing well academically would come true.

"If you asked 12-year-old me, I would never have believed it," he said with a laugh. "What I've learnt is that no one can force you to make choices; you have to make your own way in life."

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NO FUTURE? LEARN TO DREAM

They are told they have no future and, as a mentor, I want to change that. Even if they don't have big dreams, at least they learn to dream.



MR MOHAMMAD SYAFIQ MOHAMMAD SUHAINI, on erasing the stigma of negativity around his charges. He has taught and mentored about 60 students.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 01 NOVEMBER 2017

Electronic acts find global beat

Home-grown music artists are making a name for themselves on the world stage

Anjali Raguraman and Eddino Abdul Hadi

A new wave of electronic artists from Singapore is coming to the fore - not just locally, but also internationally. And they are making a career of it.

DJ-producer Myrne, or Manfred Lim, has just completed a three-week club tour in North America where the crowds are already familiar with his music.

The captivating Jasmine Sokko, with her electronica-leaning tunes, has had her share of chart success, going to No. 1 on streaming service Spotify's viral charts in Singapore and No. 2 on MTV Asia's regional Viral Charts.

Lim, 22, says: "I used to have the idea that you can't have a music career in Singapore, but two years of playing here has changed that."

Having also played in Australia, China and South-east Asia, he notes how the regional scene has changed from catering to commercial, big-room or electro house music every night, to making space for more independent and niche electronic acts.

He says: "People are coming round to the idea that you don't have to have a huge label to be a successful artist or to get people to come to your venue. You can just have a SoundCloud page, be independent, but still be very successful."

Evanturetime looking for the Singapore sound

Evanturetime made his debut as a solo electronic artist only a year ago, when he released his first single, Vultures.

But as a producer, composer, songwriter and audio wizard, the 28-year-old, whose real name is Evan Low, has put his stamp on a wide range of projects in the last few years.

He has worked with acts that range from American hitmaker David Foster to some of the homegrown indie scene's most prominent names, such as singer-songwriter Inch Chua.

If you have watched a movie at any of cinema chain Golden Village's screens recently, you would have heard his music too - he worked on the tune that plays when the company's logo appears on screen.

In April this year, he released his second single I Don't Care, a collaboration with home-grown experimental electronic artist Yllis, as well as a joint EP, Heartstrings, with singer, rapper, musician and songwriter Tim De Cotta.

Low is keen on expanding his long list of local collaborators, which includes singer-songwriters Charlie Lim, Theodora and Linying.

"I have always been curious about our sonic identity, about finding a Singapore

sound," he says.

"South Korea has K-pop, Taiwan and China have their own identities. I believe we have something even stronger and better, but we haven't quite figured it out yet.

"So by reaching out, meeting, chatting and eventually working with artists who are aligned with my vision, I'm hoping, maybe some years down the road, we can figure this out together."

Low, who first took piano lessons at the age of five, graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a Diploma in Music and Audio Technology, honed his skills at famed American music school Berklee College of Music, thanks to scholarships from the school as well as the Media Development Authority.

He credits musician and songwriter Jonathan Chua from pop band The Sam Willows for helping him get a firmer foothold in the music industry. Low is a manager in Zendyll, an audio-visual production house co-founded by Chua.

Low says: "He heard of my work and wanted to work together to cultivate the scene not only from his capacity as an artist, but also from the commercial world as arrangers and producers."

His debut solo EP is due to be released next year.

Before that, however, his schedule is packed in the next few months. In January, he is the music director at the upcoming



Evanturetime is keen to work with other local singer-songwriters to find Singapore's sonic identity.

concert by social media personalities Muna and Hirzi at the Capitol Theatre.

A new song will be released soon. Titled Sober, he describes it as a "fun" and "quirky" electronic pop single featuring jazz crooner and last year's Sing! China breakout star Nathan Hartono, as well as Benjamin Kheng and Jonathan Chua from The Sam Willows.

"I strongly believe that if you're passionate about your craft and you're good at it, you'll definitely find a place in the industry you seek, which, in my case, is music. The best way for me to achieve that is to lead by example and provide aid the best I can whenever someone seeks it."

Eddino Abdul Hadi

LIANHE ZAOBAO | 09 SEPTEMBER 2015

多重身份音乐人刘俊锋：这里可以靠音乐过活

黄靖晶 / 报道

刘俊锋从事本地音乐领域的“冷门”职业，他身兼制作人、演出者、音响工程师、音效设计师、音乐制作工程师和音乐教育者多重身份。他说，尽管收入不稳定，但足够生活，更重要的是，能够从事他热爱的音乐工作。

25岁的刘俊锋，在2009年毕业于新加坡坡理工学院音乐与音响科技系（Diploma in Music and Audio Technology，简称DMAT）。上周六晚上，他出席了其科系的十周年晚会，跟学弟学妹们分享自己的经验。

刘俊锋接受本报访问时说，他从该科系获得最宝贵的一课是：“我们身为音乐工作者，须要放下自我，用心聆听，才能做好音乐。”

他说，有的人只要当音乐人，要有属于自己的作品，而他愿意放下“音乐人”的身份，从事幕后工作，为别人制作音乐作品。

为大卫佛斯特录制歌曲

今年初，他通过学校导师认识了加拿大知名音乐制作人David Foster（David Foster）在《亚洲达人秀》（Asia's Got Talent）的音乐导演Adam Lee。那时，David Foster以评判身份，来新加坡宣传《亚洲达人秀》节目。

“他们推荐我跟David Foster合作，因为我工作的速度快。基于我在音响工程和音乐制作的训练，我知道他的音乐需要，他也满意我的工作。过后，他要为《亚洲达人秀》录制歌曲‘Let's Groove’，再次找我合作。”



刘俊锋（右）为知名音乐制作人大卫佛斯特录制过歌曲。（受访者提供）

刘俊锋从跟David Foster的合作获益不少，“他是一名非常严谨又专业的音乐人，听觉很灵敏，也会表明对别人的要求。他擅长说笑，懂得舒缓紧张的工作气氛。”

与多名歌手合作过

刘俊锋跟音乐的渊源，从父母在他念小学时鼓励他第一次上台演奏钢琴开始。父母的支持不仅启发他对音乐的热忱，也促使他勇闯音乐世界。他自新加坡理工学院毕业后，远赴美国波士顿报读知名的伯克利音乐学院（Berklee College of Music），以“Magna Cum

Laude”优等成绩毕业。他也是媒体发展管理局（MDA）的媒体学术奖学金得主，目前是自由音乐制作人。

他合作过的音乐人和歌手包括：美国摇滚贝斯手Nathan East、本地歌手叶良俊、本地独立创作歌手蔡昀娟（Inch Chua）、爵士歌手向洋（Nathan Hartono）、歌手慕斯菲拉（Amni Musfirah）和本地爵士乐名家蒙特罗（Jeremy Monteiro）。

上个月，刘俊锋在新加坡仲夏夜空（Singapore Night Festival）以DJ身份表演，并在“Tinhill Festival”担任蔡昀娟的键盘手。之前，他参与过孙燕姿《克卜勒》专辑的歌曲“Radio”的制作，接下来也会帮蔡昀娟制作新的英语专辑。

必须学会应付不固定收入

在音乐道路上，他认为最困难的是学会应付不固定的收入。有别于一般上班族的固定月薪，他的收入取决于所接的音乐案子，“你要算好几时接什么案子，并算好自己的支出与储蓄。”

尽管如此，他说：“在新加坡，还是可以靠音乐过活。”

他最大的满足感是看到歌手或顾客对自己的作品感到满意，那表示他捕捉到歌手对音乐的需求。

对于有兴趣从事音乐工作的年轻朋友，刘俊锋有什么建议？

“找出自己在音乐领域里最擅长的技能，保持对音乐的热忱。对工作不要挑剔，要不断巧干（work smart）也要苦干（work hard）。”

◀ Summary of Chinese article

Diploma in Music and Audio Technology alumnus Evan Loh, shared how the course equipped him with the skills and knowledge to work in the music industry after graduation. Through his lecturer, Evan also had the opportunity to work with the renowned Canadian music producer David Foster.

BERITA MINGGU | 09 APRIL 2017

Pengalaman di Lembah Silikon merangsang minda

SEBAGAI lulusan diploma pentadbiran perniagaan daripada Politeknik Singapura (SP) yang kini mahasiswa Sekolah Perniagaan Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS), Cik Rafikah Halim lebih condong pada dunia perniagaan dan bukan teknologi maklumat.

Bagaimanapun, berkat kesungguhan mempelajari sesuatu yang baru, beliau memenangi peraduan hackathon sedunia, API World Hackathon, di Lembah Silikon, Amerika Syarikat, tahun lalu.

Hackathon ialah pertandingan yang menguji ketangkasan peserta mencipta sofwe dan aplikasi dalam masa yang ditetapkan.

Ia menghimpunkan pemaju sofwe, pengatur cara komputer, pereka antara muka komputer, usahawan muda dan mahasiswa seperti Cik Rafikah yang berminat mendalami dunia teknologi maklumat.

Pasukan beliau mencipta aplikasi realiti berperantara KingFashion yang mengubah pengalaman membeli barangan dalam talian menjadi persis satu permainan.

Mereka menewaskan ratusan kumpulan lain, yang terdiri daripada pemaju dan usahawan terbilang,

dari segenap pelosok dunia.

Hadiahnya ialah wang tunai AS\$10,000 (\$14,018).

Mengulas mengenai pengalamannya di Lembah Silikon dalam temu bual menerusi panggilan jauh ke Amerika, Cik Rafikah, 22 tahun, berkata:

“Pilihan memasuki Sekolah Perniagaan NUS dibuat selepas tamat pengajian di Politeknik Singapura berdasarkan ingin menimba ilmu dan pengalaman di luar negara.

“Saya lihat NUS menawarkan Program Maktab Luar Negara (NOC) yang direka khusus bagi membangun dan menajamkan semangat keusahawanan mahasiswa dengan menempatkan mereka di kawasan khas yang memang bersemarak dengan dunia usahatekwan, seperti Lembah Silikon.

“Alhamdulillah, pengalaman menyertai hackathon mendekatkan saya lagi dengan impian mengusahakan syarikat sendiri yang menyatukan pemasaran dengan teknologi.

“Saya mungkin kurang arif tentang teknologi tetapi saya belajar kesulitan membangunkan aplikasi mesra pengguna.”

Sekarang, Cik Rafikah, anak tunggal berjauhan dari ibunya, seorang ibu tunggal, bekerja sambil belajar di Lembah Silikon.

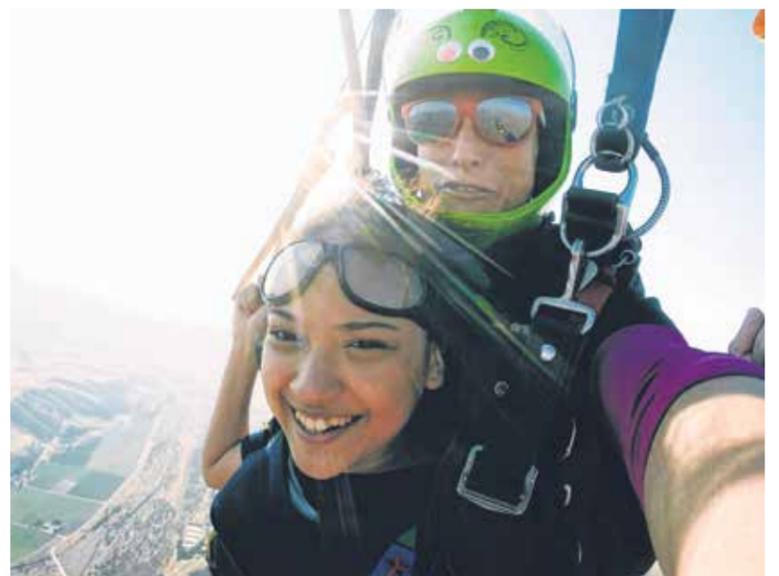
Beliau bertugas dengan Stellar Loyalty, syarikat yang membangunkan sofwe yang membantu memperkukuh hubungan sesuatu jenama dengan pelanggan setianya.

“Pengalaman bekerja dalam suasana merangsang minda di Lembah Silikon membuka mata saya tentang proses menjana idea segar.

“Apabila anda dikelilingi karyawan yang sentiasa mencerna idea kreatif dan inovatif, anda akan lebih bersemangat belajar dan mencabar diri agar lebih proaktif mengemukakan idea atau membangunkan sesuatu.

“Kepada belia sebaya, usah takut meneroka di luar Singapura dan bekerja keras bagi mengecapi cita-cita dan matlamat anda.

“Memang ada kalanya, dalam kesibukan bekerja dan mengusahakan projek, saya kurang tidur, tetapi kepuasannya terasa apabila idea itu menjadi nyata dan hasilnya dapat dimanfaatkan orang lain,” katanya, yang turut mengambil peluang mencuba kegiatan nekad terjun udara (skydiving) sebagai pelega tekanan.



TERBUKA MATA LIHAT DUNIA: Walaupun daripada jurusan pentadbiran perniagaan, Cik Rafikah memenangi peraduan mencipta aplikasi permainan beli-belah KingFashion di Lembah Silikon, dek kesediaan dan kesungguhan mencuba sesuatu yang baru dan memerlukan keberanian, seperti sukan terjun udara. - Foto ihsan RAFIKAH HALIM

◀ Summary of Malay article

An eye-opening experience at the Silicon Valley

SP's Diploma in Business Administration graduate, Rafikah Halim, who is now a student at the National University of Singapore, took part in the API World Hackathon held in Silicon Valley last year, and shared how the experience made her interested to pursue a career in business.

BERITA HARIAN | 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

Penyanyi muda mahu cipta lagu isu 'terlarang'

PUTRI MARDHIYAH YAZID

"SAYA nak buat lagu tabu!"

Begitulah laungan impian penyanyi muda Singapura Ahmadul Amin Haron.

Lebih selesa dipanggil Amin, penyanyi berusia 21 tahun itu memberitahu Berita Harian bahawa beliau ingin memberi kelainan dalam industri muzik dengan menentang isu terlarang, atau tabu, dalam lagu yang dicipta.

Sungguhpun demikian, Amin akur isu terlarang agak sensitif bagi masyarakat Melayu.

"Oleh sebab itu, saya menghasilkan lagu jenis pop agar dapat seimbang dengan lirik yang agak serius," ujarnya, yang sedang menjalani Perkhidmatan Negara (NS).

Sehingga kini, beliau sudah menghasilkan lima lagu berunsur terlarang.

Antaranya ialah lagu bagi projek tahun akhir kursus diploma teknologi muzik dan bunyian yang diikutinya di Politeknik Singapura berjudul Parodi Melayu.

Lagu tersebut, yang beliau dengarkan pada majlis tamat pengajian tahun

lalu, menyentuh perihal stereotaip yang sering dikaitkan dengan orang Melayu yang suka melepak dan malas bekerja.

Pada akhir lagu tersebut, beliau menekankan bahawa ciri itu ada bukan sahaja dalam kalangan masyarakat Melayu, bahkan masyarakat lain.

Antara lagu tabu lain yang beliau hasilkan ialah Baju Raya Hijau dan Bila Dah Dewasa. Amin berkata lagu-lagu tersebut tercipta hasil pengalaman sendiri dan belum disiarkan.

"Lagu Baju Raya Hijau menceritakan pengalaman seorang askar. Karya ini dihasilkan berdasarkan pengalaman menjalani NS. Saya perlu daftar masuk NS pada Hari Raya kedua. Disebabkan itu, tajuknya ialah Baju Raya Hijau," ujarnya.

Anak keenam dalam keluarga tujuh adik-beradik itu juga menceritakan keterujaannya apabila 'single' ciptaan, Selamat Malam Sayang, mendapat perhatian. Beliau teruja setiap kali mendapat tahu bahawa lagunya dimainkan di radio.

"Apabila lagu saya diputarkan, saya akan suruh semua orang dalam rumah diam sekejap dan dengar lagu tersebut. "Saya juga akan menghantar mesej kepada rakan-rakan 'Korang (dengar ra-

dio) Ria, sekarang!'

"Kawan saya pernah menceritakan bahawa pada suatu ketika, beliau sedang mendengarkan lagu tersebut pada Hari Raya. Apabila saudaranya terdengarnya menyanyikan lagu itu, beliau beritahu yang beliau sukakan lagu itu.

"Bila saya dapat tahu, saya rasa macam 'Wow, betul ke ni?' Rasa terharu bila orang lain yang saya tak tahu, kenal lagu saya," ujarnya.

Video muzik Selamat Malam Sayang telah pun dilancar di YouTube.

Amin, yang pernah memasuki pertandingan adu bakat The Final One di Saluran 5, berharap dapat menggapai cita-cita sebagai penyanyi dan mengubah lagu selepas tamat NS kelak.

Walaupun pernah mendapat tentangan daripada kenalan rapat, beliau tetap berusaha mengejar cita-cita itu.

"Ramai yang cakap (cita-cita) ini satu idea tidak bernas, tapi saya percaya dengan lagu yang saya hasilkan. Bila mereka lihat saya bersungguh-sungguh dalam bidang ini, mereka akhirnya bersetuju dengan pilihan saya ini," ujarnya.

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MAHU SUNTIK KELAINAN: Bakat baru Singapura, Ahmadul Amin Haron, yang lebih mesra dipanggil Amin, sudah mencipta beberapa lagu yang membincangkan isu yang dianggap sebagai tabu, atau terlarang, dalam masyarakat. - Foto ZAINAL YAHYA

YOUNG SINGER WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES THROUGH MUSIC

Summary of Malay article ▲

SP's Diploma in Music and Audio Technology alumnus, Ahmadul Amin Haron has released 5 songs to date. Currently undergoing National Service, Ahmadul shared that he wants to make a difference in the music industry by creating songs that touch on serious issues, even if some topics may be taboo to the Malay community.

THE NEW PAPER | 27 JUNE 2017

She works non-stop for six months

ELAINE LEE

Her job not only requires her to work 10 hours daily in a 40 deg C room, but also live away from home for six consecutive months.

Miss Tan Huixian, 24, finds herself the only female seafarer on most ships too, but her job is a "childhood dream come true".

The 4th engineer at homegrown shipping line Pacific International Lines told The New Paper: "I have always loved hands-on work since I was young, and I excelled in physics and maths."

Miss Tan, who graduated with a diploma in marine engineering from Singapore Polytechnic, works seven days a week for six months straight. She then gets two months' rest.

Her day-to-day tasks include operating machinery such as oil purifiers and freshwater generators, cleaning machinery and inspecting them in the engine room.

While she has not encountered

any major accidents, she had some near misses.

"It is quite dangerous to be working in the room because there are a lot of pipelines that contain oil above 140 deg C and electrical cables everywhere.

"There was once when my colleague accidentally let go of something heavy, and it swung downwards, nearly hitting me. But I managed to move aside in time."

But Miss Tan has not been as lucky when it comes to personal attacks from a few male colleagues.

'PERSONAL ATTACKS'

"I have met male colleagues who launched personal attacks or tended to be more judgmental towards female seafarers, and I try to deal with them by making sure I do my job well," she said.

Miss Tan spends her downtime like any other young person — she scrolls through social media and plays games on the PlayStation 4 she brings along.

During her breaks, she travels, plays drums and watches Korean dramas and anime.

Her job has brought her to places such as India, China and South Africa. Her favourite pit stop is Wellington, New Zealand.

While Miss Tan agreed that women have the potential to go far and break new grounds in engineering and other Stem industries, she cautioned that her job is not for everyone.

She said: "There are a lot of cons in terms of the physical, mental and emotional aspects, even more so for girls. But if one can overcome those, then this is an extremely rewarding career."

Women who are inspired by Miss Tan's story can get involved via the Maritime Connect Office, a central node connecting maritime employers, industry associations and the Government to students and jobseekers.

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Miss Tan Huixian is a 4th engineer at Pacific International Lines. PHOTO: SKILLSFUTURE SINGAPORE

THE STRAITS TIMES | 16 DECEMBER 2016

Student wins film award

Singaporean Alvin Lee wins Best New Director Award at the China Short Film Golden Hummingbird Awards

BOON CHAN
Media Correspondent



A bitter-sweet film about organ donation by a Singaporean film student

has won an award in China's first national-level awards for short films.

Titled *Seed*, the 16-minute film is written and directed by Alvin Lee (above), 25, who is studying directing at the Beijing Film Academy.

His work beat 10,000 other submissions to win the Best New Director Award at the China Short Film Golden Hummingbird Awards. He received the trophy at an award ceremony on Dec 10 at Oriental Salt Lake City in Changzhou.

The film employed Chinese actors and was filmed in Beijing. The story is about the emotional visit a couple pays a little boy who received the donated heart of their dead son. The actress who played the transplant recipient's mother, Qin Yu, was nominated for Best



Seed, directed by Alvin Lee, stars (above from left) Qin Yu, Cui Yang and Pan Ruo Yao. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALVIN LEE

Newcomer Performance.

Currently in his third year of his bachelor's degree programme, Lee came up with the story after coming across a short YouTube clip with a similar premise.

Because the film was set in Beijing, he had to get into the "Chinese mindset" regarding organ donation.

Speaking over the telephone, he says: "There's a saying that when a person dies, the body should be complete and intact. So it's very hard for (the couple) to donate their child's organs."

The head of this year's jury was acclaimed director and actor Feng Xiaogang.

The China Short Film Awards are the country's first national-level event for shorts and were first held in 2012.

Local film-maker Royston Tan was previously named

Best Director for his short film *Popiah* at what was then called the China International Short Film Awards in 2013.

Lee himself is no stranger to awards. He had won the Grand Prix Award at the 2012 Very Short International Film festival with *Timeline*, which is about the relationship between an ex-convict and his mother.

He also nabbed the Best Director and Best Sound Awards at the Singapore Short Film Awards last year with *Bon Voyage*, which is about his relationship with his grandmother.

He graduated with a diploma in digital media from Singapore Polytechnic in 2011 and had thought about applying to film schools in the United States after national service.

But he preferred being

in a Chinese-speaking environment. "I grew up in a very traditional Chinese family, I did wushu (martial arts) and I studied Chinese literature."

The fact that the Beijing Film Academy had such a stringent selection process – he was one of 26 successful candidates winnowed from more than 1,000 applicants over six stages of examinations – was also a point in its favour.

He figured that the learning environment would be a very good one, given the quality of the cohort.

With a scholarship from the Infocommunications Media Development Authority, he signed up for the course.

At the academy, instructors and speakers include famous alumni such as Zhang Yimou, Tian Zhuangzhuang

and Xie Fei, as well as filmmakers from abroad such as South Korea's Kim Ki-duk, Japan's Yojiro Takita and France's Luc Besson.

The one who left the deepest impression was Kim, known for directing feted arthouse films such as *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... And Spring* (2003).

Lee recalls: "He was one hour late because he was drunk. (But) he's a very nice and humble guy."

After his graduation in 2018, he plans to start work on a feature. As to whether he will be based in China or Singapore, he says: "I think six hours is very near for me to fly either way. But I'll definitely come back to Singapore as that's where my home is."

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 26 AUGUST 2017

Six lauded for innovative ways of engaging students

Augmented reality, musical stairs are handy tools for top teachers

Tristan Jeyaretnam

Teachers are going the extra mile to come up with innovative ways to engage their millennial students.

Ms Asrina Abdul Samar, a Master Mentor at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), uses augmented reality to allow her students to visualise her engineering lessons – from gears to engines – on their phones.

Yesterday, the 37-year-old was one of six to receive the President's Award for Teachers this year, which for the first time has been extended to include educators from the ITE and polytechnics to recognise their role in technical and vocational education, as well as lifelong learning.

The other winners to receive their award from President Tony Tan Keng Yam at the Istana were Mr Jahangeer Mohamed Jahabar (Endeavour Primary School), Dr Ow Yeong Wai Mang (Henry Park Primary School), Mr Djohan Abdul Rahman (Bishan Park Secondary School), Madam Lim Hwee Sian (Cedar Girls' Secondary School) and Ms Kwa Lay Ping (Singapore Polytechnic).

They were chosen from 4,105 teachers nominated by school leaders, teachers, parents, former and current students this year.

Asked why Ms Asrina wanted to use phones as a teaching aid, she had a ready answer. She said: "Nowadays, if you ask students to put away their phones, it's not going to work. So why not use these tools and make it more fun for them?"

Her innovation has also been put to use in designing a learning lab for students. She would often shift tables and chairs around for her Mechatronics lessons at the old ITE Tampines campus to allow students



The six winners of the President's Award for Teachers this year are (from left) Mr Jahangeer Mohamed Jahabar, Madam Lim Hwee Sian, Mr Djohan Abdul Rahman, Ms Asrina Abdul Samar, Dr Ow Yeong Wai Mang and Ms Kwa Lay Ping. PHOTO: LIANHE ZAOBAO

to engage in group discussions.

When the college moved to its present site in Ang Mo Kio, Ms Asrina and a colleague proposed a classroom of their dreams.

The result: a jumbo-sized Innovative Lab at the School of Engineering or iLab@SEG. It is equipped with large, carpeted spaces as students prefer to study in open, informal spaces, and walls and tables that can be written on to help those who have difficulty retaining information.

"They remember concepts better when they are free to represent them graphically," said Ms Asrina.

Madam Lim, 47, the lead teacher in music at Cedar Girls', had a similar impact. With the help of other teachers, she rigged a musical staircase on which students can step to create tunes.

She also fabricated an escape room on campus to coincide with Singapore's Golden Jubilee. In teams of five to seven, students had to solve puzzles relating to Singapore's early years of independence.

These efforts are part of her push to get everyone to appreciate the arts. She actively tries to persuade students with no formal training in

music or performing to take part in the National Day Parade.

"Every child in kindergarten can sing and he or she will sing loudly. They may not be very good at it, but they all firmly believe they can sing," she said.

"It is only when we grow older that some of us lose our voices because we become more self-conscious. It's more an issue of confidence and encouragement. Everyone has a voice. My aim is to help each student of mine find hers."

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University scholarships for SP graduates

Over the years, many SP graduates have been awarded prestigious bond-free scholarships from the local universities to pursue degree programmes. This is in addition to the scholarships awarded by ministries, companies, and organisations that you read about in this issue of SP News. Here are some of them:



Daniel Ho
Diploma In Infocomm Security Management
Awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship



Don Loi Xu
Diploma in Biotechnology
Awarded the A*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship



Kwek Ai Ling
Diploma In Experience & Product Design
Awarded the Global Merit Scholarship by National University of Singapore



Glendon Thaiw
Diploma In Aeronautical Engineering
Awarded the Renaissance Engineering Scholarship by Nanyang Technological University



William Tan
Diploma In Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Awarded the Public Service Commission Scholarship



Christine Ng Li Ti
Diploma in Perfumery and Cosmetic Science
Awarded the NUS Undergraduate (Merit) Scholarship



Lee Boon Yao
Diploma In Aeronautical Engineering
Awarded the Nanyang Scholarship by Nanyang Technological University



Emil Yong Kai Wen
Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Awarded the DSTA Undergraduate Scholarship

BERITA HARIAN | 03 APRIL 2017

Rasa beruntung dapat banyak bimbingan mentor

WALAUPUN sudah tamat pengajian di Politeknik Singapura (SP) enam tahun lalu, Cik Noor Izzaty Ishak mengalu-alukan langkah SP dalam menawarkan program latihan berstruktur bagi penuntut Diploma Psikologi dan Drama Gunaan (DADP).

Cik Izzaty merupakan antara pelajar kumpulan pertama yang mengambil DADP di SP semasa ia mula diperkenalkan waktu itu.

"Waktu itu saya beruntung kerana mentor saya banyak membimbing saya. Namun, ada di antara rakan-rakan saya yang tidak mendapat bimbingan secukupnya, oleh itu, latihan berstruktur dapat menjamin bahawa aspek ini terjaga," ujar Cik Izzaty, yang kini bekerja di Beyond Social Services, salah sebuah agensi yang terlibat dalam menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MOU) dengan SP.

Menurut Cik Izzaty, 26 tahun, industri pekerjaan sosial bukanlah sesuatu yang mudah dan para pelajar memerlukan banyak bimbingan supaya

dapat memperkukuh minat mereka untuk terus berkecimpung dalam bidang ini.

"Saya pernah hampir putus asa, dan meninggalkan tempat kerja saya selama beberapa bulan lamanya. Saya sedih tidak dapat memberi pertolongan sepenuhnya kepada mereka yang memerlukan.

"Namun, saya pelajari bahawa sebagai manusia, kita mempunyai had walaupun mempunyai hasrat yang besar mahu menghulurkan bantuan," ujar beliau sambil berkongsi pengalaman peribadi.

Beliau menambah bahawa perlu dititikberatkan kepada para pelajar bahawa persediaan mental dan emosi amat penting dalam bidang ini.

"Sektor sosial bukan sesuatu yang mudah. Ia melibatkan perasaan, tenaga, masa dan pengurusan hubungan. Kita perlu pandai menjaga diri kita dahulu sebelum menghulurkan bantuan kepada orang lain," katanya.

Menurut beliau, walaupun tidak pernah menjalani latihan belajar sambil bekerja yang berstruktur, pengalamannya sebagai pelajar pelatih di Sekolah Assumption Pathway – menyediakan latihan vokasional kepada mereka yang gagal dalam sekolah aliran utama – telah membuka matanya dan beliau beruntung mendapat mentor yang baik.

"Mentor saya memberi saya peluang menganjurkan sesi drama bagi pelajar-pelajar di sana. Saya mengendalikan projek sendiri dengan bimbingan mentor saya dan apabila ia menerima sambutan yang baik, ia turut meningkatkan semangat saya," katanya.

Cik Izzaty menambah bahawa beliau turut menceritakan pengalamannya bersama para pelajar pelatih di tempat pekerjaannya.

Baginya, langkah menawarkan skim belajar

sambil bekerja yang lebih berstruktur ini penting bagi agensi-agensi sosial agar mereka lebih peka melatih golongan pelapis yang akan berkhidmat dalam industri ini pada masa depan.

Cik Izzaty mengatakan bahawa ia menjadi keperluan kerana industri perkhidmatan sosial merupakan bidang yang amat mencabar dan menguji kekuatan seseorang.

"Saya berharap ia akan memperkaya ilmu yang diraih pelajar selain membuka ruang bagi pihak agensi merenung apa yang dapat diperbaiki supaya para pelajar lebih bermotivasi," katanya.



KERJA SOSIAL BANYAK CABARAN:

Cik Noor Izzaty Ishak (memegang mikrofon) mengalu-alukan langkah SP dalam melancarkan program latihan berstruktur, walaupun beliau sudah tamat pengajian enam tahun lalu. Beliau sering bekerjasama dengan para beliau, dan mendekati mereka melalui sesi drama. – Foto ihsan NOOR IZZATY ISHAK

◀ Summary of Malay article

She feels lucky to have received guidance from mentors

SP's Diploma in Applied Drama with Psychology (DADP) graduate, Noor Izzaty, was from the pioneer batch of the DADP course when it was first introduced. Izzaty, who now works at Beyond Social Services, opined that enhanced internship programmes will benefit DADP students as they will receive guidance from mentors. She shared that social work is not easy and that one requires a lot of guidance to pursue a career in this field. Izzaty also mentioned how her experience as a student coach at Assumption Pathway School – where she provided vocational training to students – opened her eyes to the field. With help from a mentor, she organised a drama session for students and received a good response from them.

THE STRAITS TIMES | 4 AUGUST 2016

S'pore Poly launches centre for special needs students

They can borrow tools to help with their learning, participate in activities or take a rest

WANG TIANJIE

The Special Education Needs Centre at Singapore Polytechnic has a lounge area for special needs students to work on projects and socialise with one another. The centre also has a soundproof room with an expandable sofa bed where students with autism can rest. ST PHOTO: SEAH KWANG PENG



Students with special needs will now be able to borrow tools to help their learning at the first Special Education Needs (SEN) centre at an institute of higher learning here.

Such a centre, which took \$200,000 and two years to set up, was launched yesterday at Singapore Polytechnic (SP) to cater to special needs students.

For example, students with hearing difficulties can borrow a device that can amplify a lecturer's voice; those with visual disabilities can borrow a mini "telescope" to help them see the lecturer or whiteboard, or a tablet that can change the size and contrast of words.

Those with autism, who need a break from the hustle and bustle of school, can rest in a soundproof room on an expandable sofa bed.

Special needs students can also take part in activities at the centre.

Mr Clarence Chua, director of student services at SP, said the centre is the first such facility in institutes of higher learning.

"We wanted a special place for them to feel comfortable, and be able to train together and manage themselves," he added.

He said there are plans to train all academic staff at SP to better manage and advise students with special education needs.

There are about 400 students with special education needs out of about 15,000 full-time students in SP, said a spokesman for the poly.

For students like Mr Ng Li Jie, 19, a Year 2 student studying for a diploma in biotechnology, the new centre is a place where he can look past his autism.

"I can get more experience and lessons from the many people in SP and learn how to handle my own challenges. Knowing that there are others like me helps me to stop focusing so much on my own needs and instead try to maximise my strengths," he said.

However, he said more could be done to make the overall school populace more inclusive.

He recounted an incident when classmates were hesitant to pick him for their groups for projects due to his special needs. "Inclusion should be taught across classes, not just for SEN students," said Mr Ng.

The launch of the SEN centre follows the introduction of the SEN fund in March 2014 for polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students with physical or sensory-related disabilities.

Under the fund, students with physical disabilities can receive up to \$5,000 to buy assistive devices, while those with visual or hearing disabilities can get up to \$25,000.

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THE STRAITS TIMES | 21 OCTOBER 2016



Youth recognised for contributions to community

Felicia Choo

Student Joel Lim, 19, had just returned from a two-week voluntary stint at a free clinic in Bandipur, Nepal, last March when the Nepal earthquake struck in April.

"When we came back (to Singapore), the doctor told us that the place we had been working at was quite badly affected and two schools were destroyed so they needed money to help to rebuild," he said.

Together with classmates from Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), he raised \$10,000 and approached the Lee Foundation, which donated \$50,000.

The money was used to rebuild the two schools.

Yesterday, Mr Lim, now studying at the National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, received the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) Gold Award for his efforts.

The award recognises youth community leaders who have satisfied the following requirements – they must have done volunteer work, participated in local and overseas expeditions, learnt a new skill, participated in sports, as well as initiated community-based projects.

Participants are given at least 1½ years to complete these tasks and have to complete the requirements by age 25.

Yesterday, 153 awardees, including Mr Lim, received their NYAA Gold Awards from President Tony Tan Keng Yam at the Tay Eng Soon

Convention Centre at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) headquarters. All in, a total of 258 NYAA Gold Awards were given out this year.

"The NYAA programme gives our young people valuable exposure beyond the classroom walls, allowing them to develop crucial life skills that help them excel as individuals and as community leaders," said Minister of State for Education and Communications and Information Janil Puthucherry at the event.

Another awardee Bryan Tan, 19, who helped initiate cleaning projects, said: "I always believe in paying it forward – doing community service can help to change someone's life and the person may be inspired to help someone else in the future."

The former ITE College East student had to juggle his studies, duties as student council president and part-time work at Universal Studios.

He is now studying chemical engineering at Singapore Polytechnic.

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Mr Tan (far left) and Mr Lim were among those who received the NYAA Gold Award yesterday. ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

THE NEW PAPER | 28 JUNE 2017

Purrfect start to school term

ISABELLE LIEW

To welcome students back to school, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) organised a cat therapy event and adoption drive, Purrapy, as part of its four-day Distraction Arts Festival.

More than 500 students and staff turned up for the event yesterday, and many queued up to spend three minutes in a room with the six cats.

The community cats, aged two months to three years old, are taken care of by an independent caregiver who wanted to be known only as Mrs Wong, 76.

Event organiser Carrie Lim, a student development officer from SP's Department of Student Affairs, told The New Paper that cat therapy can help with loneliness and blood pressure.

She said: "Cat therapy has been proven to alleviate stress. (The purring of cats) has been shown to decrease stress levels and increase happy hormones in people."

Miss Lim hopes to increase students' awareness of animal welfare and to develop a deeper sense of appreciation for community cats through this event.

Students and staff can also indicate interest in adopting the cats, and SP will conduct a screening process for potential adopters.

Postcards and notebooks, costing \$1 and \$20 respectively, were sold at the event with all proceeds to go towards helping the community cats under Mrs Wong.

Separately, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) launched a month-long campaign Inclusivity & Me, yesterday, to better integrate students with special

educational needs (SEN) and disabilities on campus.

A Sunshine Room was launched, equipped with multi-sensorial toys such as small stones and whiteboards, for SEN students to destress.

There is also a Reflect & Relax Room where peer helpers play games and study with the SEN students. Students also participated in activities like navigating a canteen in a wheelchair.

Mr Alvin Seah, 38, a wheelchair user and a member of the administrative staff with NP's School of Film and Media Studies, said: "Awareness is very important to everyone's understanding of the other person's capabilities. (This activity) is a great way to gain insight."

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A volunteer for SP's back-to-school cat therapy event, Purrapy. TNP PHOTO: ADELIN TAN

THE NEW PAPER | 03 NOVEMBER 2017

Sungei Road vendors show Singapore Poly students their sales techniques

SAMFREY TAN

Using items like Japanese banana notes and antiques, 15 vendors from the now-defunct Sungei Road market have been showing off their selling techniques at the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) over the last couple of days.

Organised by SP students, the Legal Black Market at the school have seen about 40 booths set up, and the event ends tomorrow.

It was planned by three students from SP's diploma in business administration to observe the vendors' sales techniques, which cannot be replicated in lectures.

The 80-year-old Sungei Road market closed on July 10 to make way for residential developments.

Some of its vendors now operate in pasar malams and other such events.

The chairman of Sungei Market's association, Mr Koh Eng Khoon, 76, told The New Paper that he hoped the students would be inspired by the vendors' resilience.

He said: "This is meaningful as students can observe the traditional way of conducting business.

"Though we are old, we have and will find ways to communicate with anybody, even with English and Thaispeaking foreigners."

Mr Koh added: "Vendors convince customers by saying how their items are antiques and cannot be found elsewhere anymore."

He said the vendors use their experience to judge an item's value and price.

One of the event's organisers, Mr Vince Agcanas, 19, said the vendors' items include second-hand goods acquired from foraging dumpsters or from karang guni men.

Another organiser, Miss Elizabeth Woo, 20, said: "We want to give business opportunities to these vendors with our event. Marketing and hustling skills are things they can teach us as well."



Mr Koh Eng Khoon (in pink) hopes students will learn from the vendors.

PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

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