Meet Ms Josephine Teo, a Singapore Polytechnic (SP) Alumna who traded in the corporate life to run her own business alongside her husband, fellow alumnus Mr Gideon Lim.

Being big believers in the ‘pay it forward’ movement, the husband and wife duo regularly give back by donating prizes to SP Diploma in Biomedical Science students, providing internship placements, and actively participating in alumni events.

**Starting out**

Ms Josephine Teo graduated in 1992 with a Diploma in Biotechnology (Medical Technology) as the top student of the year. She then went on to complete her Bachelor of Science (Honours), before working for several multinational corporations (MNCs). After many years in their respective corporate careers, her husband Mr Lim decided to start his own company, BioMedix, which markets and distributes innovative medical technology globally.

**The First Years**

As with any new venture, the first few years can be tricky. Mr Lim and Ms Teo explain how they had to wear multiple hats, switching between being recruiters to managing deliveries the next day. Still, it was necessary to get BioMedix off the ground.

“On top of the intensive workload, we have curveballs like our suppliers undergoing mergers or acquisitions which meant deliveries getting delayed for months,” shared Mr Lim.

Ms Teo adds, “Staffing is also a challenge. When experienced staff leave, we must divert resources to train their replacements, affecting our productivity as a whole.”

Here Mr Lim chimes in with, “Correct, but because our staff are treated well, they come back and assist us in whatever way they can.”

Ever the optimists, they took these problems in their stride. Eventually, BioMedix benefited from these changes when it acquired renowned suppliers after mergers and had former employees recommend BioMedix to their new employers for collaborative business opportunities.

**Future of BioMedix**

Taking lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic, BioMedix is moving towards self-sufficiency to prevent future supply issues. The company plans to explore manufacturing the devices, such as the automation of technological processes essential to healthcare.

For this, BioMedix is keen to work with SP students. “Our partnership can be mutually beneficial. Tapping into the students’ innovative ideas, we can help commercialise their ideas and market them globally.”

Ms Teo also hopes to collaborate with SP to promote continuous learning by running courses for medical technologists at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. She explains that these essential courses help refresh medical technologists’ skills so they are familiar with different sections of the clinical laboratory.

**Advice for Aspiring Entrepreneurs**

On the business front, Ms Teo shares her key takeaways and advice for SP students pursuing entrepreneurship.

“Be ready for hard work and prepare for the job, but be on guard for failure. While the success rate of new ventures is often low, push through with your passion for the work. If you have these in check, all that’s left is to start.”

Ms Teo also sponsored him to upskill with a Specialist Diploma in Analytical Science. The company shared that after 12 years in operation globally, BioMedix now supplies lab chemicals and medical devices to various local and overseas laboratories and hospitals.

**Nurturing Talent at BioMedix**

Aside from providing internship and mentorship opportunities to SP students, BioMedix has overseen the internship placements of many students across polytechnics and universities.

Ms Teo shares an inspiring story about an applicant who stands out as an example of the encouraging environment at BioMedix. While the applicant in question was on the autism spectrum, Ms Teo did not hesitate to bring him on board.

“We organised a trial run before his placement to get him familiar with the work. I paid extra attention to the tasks he took on and adjusted them to his skill level. My other employees were also supportive in helping him learn the ropes. After his good performance, we offered him a full-time position and he’s now been a part of the BioMedix team for the past two years. We have also sponsored him to upskill with a Specialist Diploma in Analytical Science.”
SP signs MoU to launch micro-certificate upskilling programme for employees in the ICT sector

Starting this year, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will launch a micro-credential pathway for employees and adult learners from the Information & Communications Technology (ICT) sector, making it easier for them to enrol in short courses to upgrade their skills and competencies. SIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Singapore Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, National Computer Systems, Singapore Computer Society and Singtel to launch the programme.

SP launches country’s first-ever solar photovoltaics recycling line

Being piloted at Singapore Polytechnic (SP), the first solar photovoltaics recycling line involves a machine taking apart solar panels so its components - including precious materials like silver and glass - can be recycled. It has a target recycling capacity of 80 panels a day and a recovery rate of up to 95%. SP has also established two laboratories - SP-Sembcorp Solar PV Research Lab and SP-CHINT Smart Electrical Power Training Laboratory to enhance research and development in the field of solar energy.

SP Alumnus and adjunct lecturer Wellon Chou uses social media to establish online marketing company

SP alumnus and adjunct lecturer Wellon Chou created new business opportunities during the pandemic, establishing an online marketing company and a new social media marketing tool for clients to market their products or services.

SP launches country’s first-ever solar photovoltaics recycling line

Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 29 Nov 2022

SP signs MoU to launch micro-certificate upskilling programme for employees in the ICT sector

Source: Channel NewsAsia, 01 Nov 2022

SP Alumnus and adjunct lecturer Wellon Chou uses social media to establish online marketing company

Source: Shin Min Daily News, 14 Nov 2022

Upcoming Events

SP XPAND
THE FUTURE OF WORK
10.02.23
Time: 3pm - 7.30pm | Venue: T11 Square

Keen to find out what are the opportunities and skills in demand for the future economy? Join us in SP to catch sharings by leading industry professionals, network with potential employers, have fun at the interactive booths, and more!

Don’t Miss Out:
Free Gift
Food Zone

*When all activities are completed

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Terms and conditions apply

LOCKDOWN
10% off the usual retail price
1 pass for 1 gameroom discount
Terms and conditions apply

SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES’ GUILD
10% discount for a la carte menu at SPGG F&B outlets (SPGG Coffee Hub & The Restaurant)
Terms and conditions apply

TUAN YUAN PORK RIBS SOUP
5% discount when you spend above $50 before GST
Terms and conditions apply

THE ESCAPE ARTIST
10% discount for the entire bill
Terms and conditions apply

THE KETTLE GOURMET
5% discount when you quote “HAPPY5”
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