

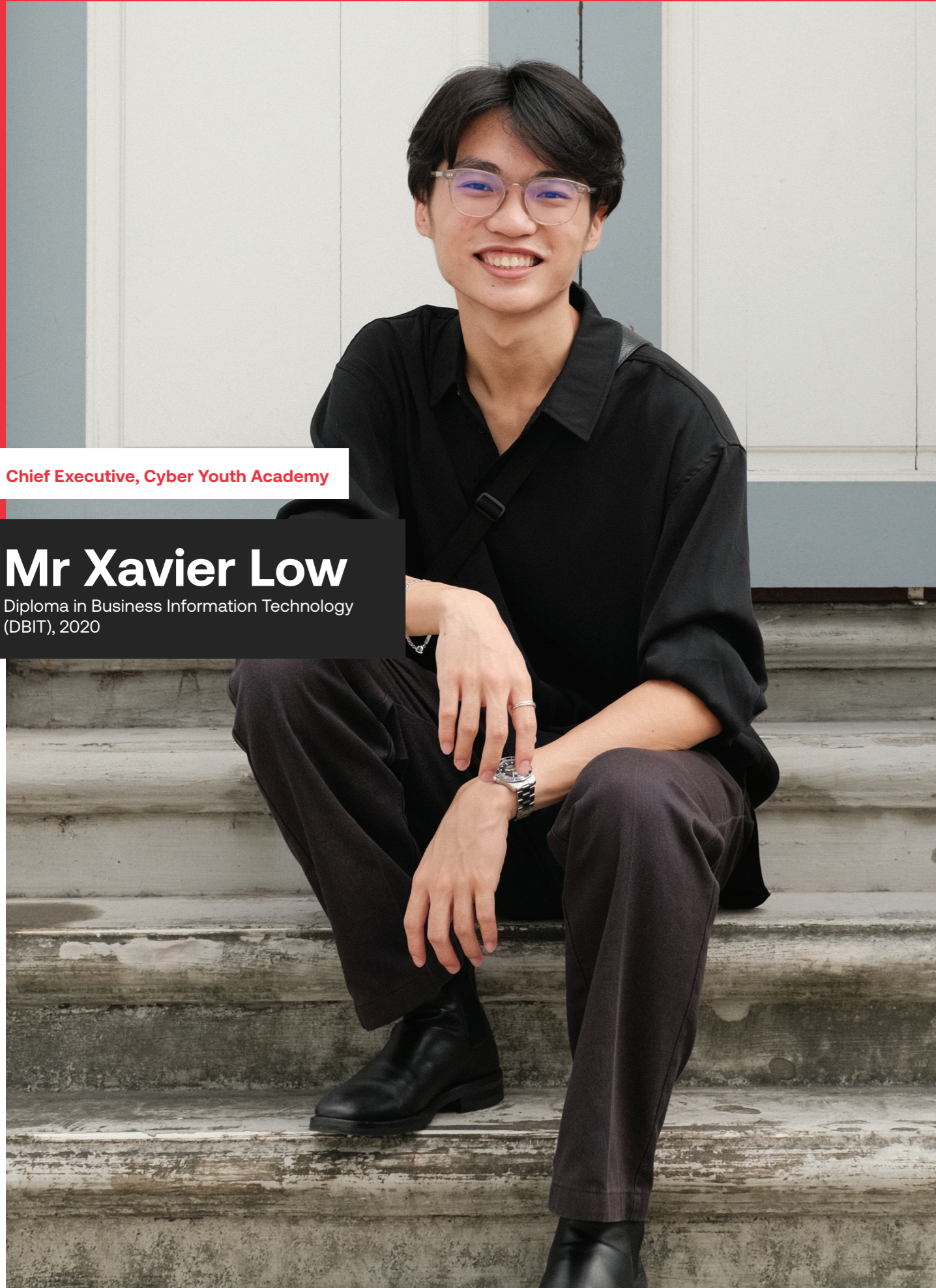
SP Alliance & Network

SP Alumni eNews

October 2022



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
XAVIER LOW,
USING TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE GREATER GOOD**



Chief Executive, Cyber Youth Academy

Mr Xavier Low

Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT), 2020

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Meet Mr Xavier Low, a Singapore Polytechnic (SP) alumnus who co-founded a startup, managed the social media channels of his parents’ business, and served as the president of the SP Chinese Orchestra (SPCO)— all while pursuing a Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT).

Inspired by his experiences at SP, Xavier is on a mission to use his skills in both business and technology to make a positive impact on society.

Currently continuing his studies at Singapore Management University, Xavier is also the Chief Executive of Cyber Youth Academy, a local charity that advocates cyber security, digital wellness and digital literacy to secondary school students.

More than a lecturer

When asked about memorable classes in SP, Xavier was quick to mention Mr Neelesh Bhatia and his Business Opportunity Module. Xavier vividly remembers the first lesson, where Mr Neelesh immediately told the class to come up with three business ideas and pitch them to him the following week.

“During the pitching session, he was very straightforward. He would say ‘this idea would not work’ and then tell us all the reasons. I found value in not beating around the bush, and that has become a part of my personality both inside and outside of work.”

Mr Neelesh had such an influence on Xavier’s personality that his classmates even started calling him a “mini Neelesh Bhatia”. At the time, Mr Neelseh was also the Director of SP’s entrepreneurship centre SPiNOFF, and mentored Xavier and his fellow co-founders when they were developing their startup SAYOCODE.

“Mr Neelesh was the one who always grounded us. Making things user-centric helped us to filter out a lot of ideas and eventually created a product that was more catered to the needs of our target audience. This is something that is important in any start-up.”

A new perspective

Another unique activity that Xavier participated in during his time in SP was the Overseas Social Innovation Programme (OSIP), where he travelled to the Philippines with a group of volunteers to help a community using design thinking. For Xavier, it was an eye-opening experience that completely changed the way he approached problems.

“Coming from an IT school, I always thought that technology was the solution to an issue. But all of our initial ideas were not valid because the community did not have access to the Internet or electricity. I realised that you have to understand the user’s needs and pain points first, before trying to think of a solution. In the end, the solution that we designed employed no technology at all.”

Xavier also formed close friendships with both the locals and his fellow volunteers, and says that he still receives Facebook messages from them to this day.

Turning students into advocates

In his current role as Chief Executive of Cyber Youth Academy, Xavier believes that educating Singapore’s youth is the key to achieving a digitally literate society.

“When the older generation has a question about technology, they will usually ask the younger people in their household. We want every secondary school student to be equipped with the proper knowledge, so that they will teach the right things.”

Not one to rest on his laurels, Xavier also has plans to extend Cyber Youth Academy’s reach to other groups in 2023.

“Next year, we will reach out to vulnerable communities as well. We will visit homes directly, host sessions where they can come together to learn, and help them to get digital access more readily.”

Advice for SP alumni

Looking back at his own experiences, Xavier thinks that SP alumni should never be afraid to communicate their ideas in the workplace, and believes that it will give them an edge over their peers.

“I think in the workforce, having the ability and courage to speak your mind and convey your ideas is important. Those are the people who are able to bring true value to an organisation.”

As a final piece of advice, Xavier also stressed the importance of keeping calm in the face of adversity.

“If you are able to pause, think things through logically, and come up with the most appropriate solution at that point, you will emerge as a natural leader in those circumstances. That is something powerful.”

SP is launching a Part-Time Diploma in Aerospace (Engineering) next year

A Part-Time Diploma in Aerospace (Engineering) offered by SP is one of four new courses that will be added to the SkillsFuture Singapore Work-Study Programme next year. First launched in 2015, the initiative features a combination of on-the-job training and classroom learning, and its 190 courses have benefitted more than 9,000 polytechnic and ITE graduates thus far. Approximately 1,200 students have been offered work-study placements in the first half of 2022, compared to 1,400 students in the whole of 2021.



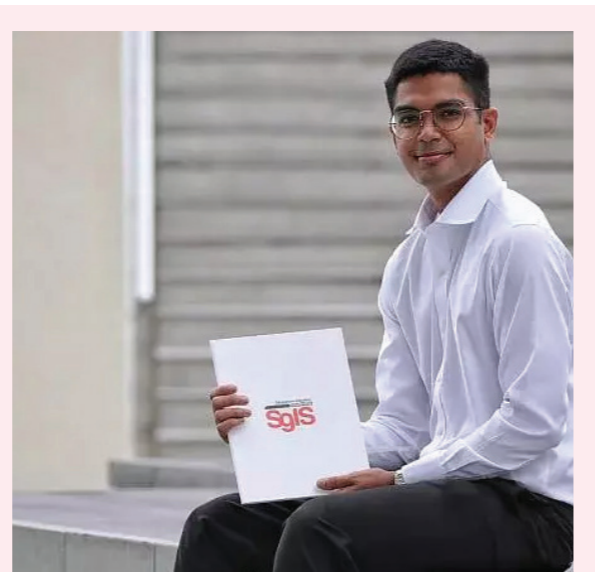
Source: [The Straits Times, 11 Aug 2022]



Source: [The Straits Times, 14 Aug 2022]

SP Alumnus Muhammad Asyraf Chumino left school at Primary 4 to take care of his mother

After leaving school at Primary 4 to look after his widowed mother, SP Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management alumnus Muhammad Asyraf Chumino found a second chance at education at Northlight School. Asyraf would go on to receive a scholarship from the Building and Construction Authority, and is currently serving a four-year bond as a property officer with EM Services at a town council.



Source: [Berita Harian, 17 Aug 2022]

SP Alumnus Syed Hafiy Suhaimi Syed Aljunied awarded Singapore-Industry Scholarship

SP alumnus Syed Hafiy Suhaimi Syed Aljunied has received the Singapore-Industry Scholarship, allowing him to pursue his passion for renewable energy. Currently a third-year Chemical Engineering student at the National University of Singapore, he will be bonded to solar energy company REC Solar for two years after his studies.



Source: [The Straits Times, 21 Aug 2022]

SP Alumnus Nghoh Thiam Meng pays tribute to his father by making guitars

SP alumnus Nghoh Thiam Meng crafted a guitar from scratch to mourn his late father, and continues to honour his memory as a full-time luthier.



SP Alumna Sardonna Ng is one of 54 students to receive the MaritimeONE Scholarship

SP Diploma in Maritime Business alumna Sardonna Ng was awarded the MaritimeONE Scholarship at the recent MaritimeONE and Tripartite Maritime Scholarships (TMSS) awards ceremony. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Maritime Studies at Nanyang Technological University. TMSS recipients, who have to serve a three-year bond upon graduation, will study for a diploma in nautical studies or marine engineering at the Singapore Maritime Academy at SP.



Source: [The Straits Times, 31 Aug 2022]

SP Civil Engineering Targeted Alumni Engagement 2022

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, SP Civil Engineering alumni and staff gathered on 16th September 2022 at SPGG.

Rudy Ang, Course Chair for DCE (a Diploma in Civil & Structural Engineering (DCSE) alumnus himself), shared with the alumni on recent developments and changes to the course. The alumni also shared on the latest trends and happenings in the built environment industry.

During the networking lunch, the alumni and staff interacted and caught up with one another, recognising their past collaborations in terms of internship placements, Integrated Projects and prize sponsorships, and reaffirming the continuation of such partnerships in the future.

The heart-warming and meaningful reunion left beautiful memories etched in the hearts of both the alumni and staff. Until they meet again in the near future.



1st row (seated L to R): Tham Chee Seong, Managing Director, Macbuild Construction Pte Ltd; Lai Kok Seong, Asst. Manager (Operations), United Surveyors Pte Ltd; Er. Loo Ching Nong, Specialist (Sustainable Design), SP; Tan Yong Kwang, General Manager, Pintary Foundations Pte Ltd; Dr. Chan Ching Loong, Lecturer, SP; Dr. Keagan Chee, Senior Consultant, NING Research Pte Ltd; Dr. Liu Kao Xue, Senior Lecturer, SP; Dr. Aaron Sham Wei Lun, Senior Engineer, Building & Construction Authority.

2nd row (standing L to R): Rudy Ang, Course Chair, SP; Dr. Ng Yan Hao, Lecturer, SP; Finn Tay, Director, JTC Corporation; Teo Hui Ying, Senior Principal Surveyor, Singapore Land Authority; Liang Mui Keow, Specialist (IDD), SP.

DID Day 2022

DID Day was extra special this year. Not only was it Diploma in Interior Design's (DID) 20th anniversary, it was also DID's first face-to-face, post-pandemic event in two years!

DID Day started in 2016 as a day of celebration, bringing together existing students with alumni and industry to witness the semester one achievements of DID Students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was on hold for two years and replaced with a virtual gathering on MS Teams.

So it was indeed a privilege to physically showcase the third-year students' 1 to 1 scale - 9 Grid project, which translates the experiences of protagonist Chiro from the anime "Spirited Away" into a 1 to 1 scale plywood intervention. Also on display was the second-year students' retail projects, which translated brands and brand values into spatial touch points and experiences. The highlight being DID Memories! Photos from tutors, present students and alumni were collected and displayed, documenting DID's studio culture, student works, overseas trips and candid graduation moments.

With over a hundred alumni joining in DID Day 2022, it was heartening for the teaching staff to see so many familiar faces spanning across different cohorts, interacting with their juniors and recollecting past moments together.



Organised by:
SP Alliance & Network SP Singapore Polytechnic

In collaboration with:
PMP Project Management Institute Singapore

Project Management – Practical Examples from Industry Practitioners.

Project Management is a transferrable skill, that you can learn and practice in almost every domain.

Join us for this webinar as 2 SP alumni will share how they became successful project managers in their respective industries, and how PMP (Project Management Professional) certifications gave them an edge after graduating from Singapore Polytechnic.

DATE : Nov 02 | TIME : 4:00pm - 5:30pm | VENUE : Zoom (WEBINAR)

Speakers



Moderator



[Register here >](#)

Organised by:
SP Alliance & Network SP Singapore Polytechnic

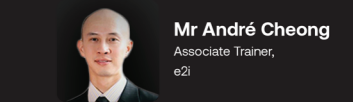
In collaboration with:
Utezi NorthWest

SPAN - Let's Talk About: Online and Offline Networking

This session helps you pick up networking skills to better enhance your employment opportunities. You will learn how to tap on your current network, open new avenues and leverage on platforms to connect with potential employers. There will also be SkillsFuture sharing on skills upgrading resources.

DATE : Nov 09 | TIME : 1:00pm - 2:00pm | VENUE : Zoom (WEBINAR)

Speaker



[Register here >](#)

Organised by:
SP Alliance & Network SP Singapore Polytechnic

In collaboration with:
INSTITUTE FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY

Options to build your retirement income

Learn the possible options to help you achieve your retirement goals and the benefits and risks of these options.

DATE : Nov 16 | TIME : 4:00pm - 5:30pm | VENUE : Zoom (WEBINAR)

Speaker



[Register here >](#)

Organised by:
SP Alliance & Network SP Singapore Polytechnic

In collaboration with: Partners:
GREEN BUILDINGS EARTH MIND ICHI SEIKI

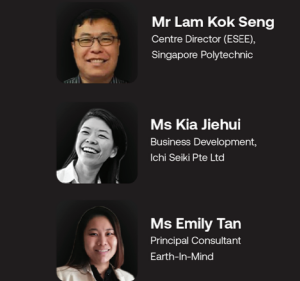
Greening Industrial Buildings

Against the backdrop of the decarbonisation megatrend, green buildings are increasingly regarded as an effective way to move the needle on built environment sustainability. Driven by national initiatives such as the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and the Singapore Green Building Masterplan, there is a strong push for enterprises to reduce their carbon emissions and green business operations.

Industrial buildings also count towards the national target of having 80 percent of the built environment greened by 2030. Greening industrial buildings can not only improve energy efficiency but also help create a better working environment for employees, reducing stress levels and improving their physical and mental wellbeing. In this webinar, hear from three industry experts as we discuss the greening of industrial buildings.

DATE : Nov 23 | TIME : 3:30pm - 5:30pm | VENUE : Zoom (WEBINAR)

Speakers



[Register here >](#)



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10% discount when you quote "SPflower10".

Terms and Conditions apply



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES' GUILD

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



LOCKDOWN

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

Terms and Conditions apply



THE ESCAPE ARTIST

10% discount for the entire bill.

Terms and Conditions apply



PLAY V-ROOM

10% off the usual retail price. 1 pass for 1 headset discount.

Terms and Conditions apply



THE KETTLE GOURMET

5% discount when you quote "HAPPY5".

Terms and Conditions apply

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For SP alumni



Upcoming Courses



Calling all Graduates
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to find out how you can achieve all these & receive **\$5,000** incentive at the same time!

Announcements



Just the Club for you!



FIND OUT MORE HERE

MOE Teaching Scholarship Information Sessions

Dec 2022 (Virtual)

PE, Art, & Music

5 Dec 2022
4pm to 5.30pm

Mother Tongue Languages

6 Dec 2022
4pm to 5.30pm

Feb 2023 (Physical)

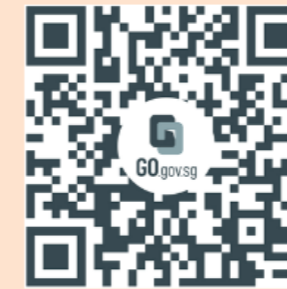
English Language & Humanities

4 Feb 2023
10am to 12pm

Sciences

18 Feb 2023
10am to 12pm

Scan here!



RSVP at go.gov.sg/moe-ts-info



Teaching Scholarships Website: moe.gov.sg/tss

Teaching Scholarships Brochure: go.gov.sg/tsbrochure



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