

SP Alliance & Network

SP Alumni eNews

June 2023

A man with a goatee and glasses, wearing a blue batik shirt, is smiling. He is standing in front of an orange wall. The image is framed by a red border.

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
NURTURING TOMORROW'S
ENTREPRENEURS**



Mr Farhan Firdaus

Partner, Meet Ventures

Diploma in Business Administration, 2014

EMPOWERING BUSINESS

HEROES

Fuelled by his passion for business and people, Farhan Firdaus helps aspiring entrepreneurs succeed. He believes that giving back helps to improve the community and builds skillsets that benefit us in the future.

Read to learn about Farhan's impact on the local entrepreneurial scene.

Start-up enthusiast, entrepreneur, and mentor — these are just some titles that fittingly describe Farhan. In less than a decade since his graduation, Farhan has established himself as a high-achieving professional.

With his business partner, he started a Venture Capitalist firm, Meet Ventures, and holds various positions in government and society. He is the Committee Member of the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ASPIRE Committee, Advisory Committee Member of the Singapore Polytechnic Business School and he was formerly a Review Committee Member of the Applied Education Committee at the Ministry of Education. He is also an official mentor at Nanyang Technology University (NTU) and Singapore Management University (SMU), and is a resident startup entrepreneurship judge at regional and national startup competitions. As an emerging thought leader, Farhan was nominated by the European Commission and U.S. Department of State for leadership programmes in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship sector representing Singapore.

Farhan has always been interested in business but what drives him is the spirit of giving back. He believes that volunteerism not only helps to improve the community but also builds and shapes character. By combining his passions, Farhan makes a positive impact on the entrepreneurial scene.

Early experiences in volunteering

Farhan has led various SP extracurricular activities and thinks back fondly on these unique experiences. One particular experience stood out to him and was pivotal in shaping his view of volunteerism. As part of the Youth Expedition Project, he

was tasked to lead a team to help build and repair schools along the Thai border.

"We did a lot of repair work and made a playground for the refugee kids," Farhan shared.

His passion for people and helping communities eventually shaped his studies and his approach to business in the future.

Combining entrepreneurship with humanities

Having studied Business in both Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and SP, it only seemed natural for Farhan to continue in the same field in university. However, he chose to take a different route and studied social sciences at SMU. He was still deeply interested in the world of business but decided to explore his interest in human behaviour.

"Because of what I studied, I understand my clients and it helps me communicate better with them," said Farhan.

During his time at SMU, Farhan gained a deeper understanding of Politics and International Relations. His experience in both social sciences and business helps him work with Meet Ventures' clients and international enterprises looking to expand into the ASEAN region.

Enabling startups and cultivating entrepreneurship

Besides working with regional enterprises, Farhan also mentors start-up founders through Meet Ventures. His heart for people continues to shine as he shares his knowledge with other founders. As a seasoned businessman, he has helped start-ups achieve success through

growing, scaling and getting acquired. In the spirit of giving back, Farhan also invests his time with aspiring entrepreneurs. He works with universities to share his industry knowledge with students who are passionate about the business field. With his wealth of experience, he was able to provide them with unique perspectives beyond the classroom.

Fostering the spirit of generosity

To Farhan, giving back is a great avenue for students to build character and learn soft skills. His belief led him to start Voluntarius, an organisation that mobilised more than 3000 youths to volunteer through various initiatives.

"Volunteering not only helps others, but it also gives youths an opportunity to hone a range of skills," Farhan shared.

Helping others will come full circle

Farhan has shown that even in the seemingly cut-throat world of business, there is space for giving back. His passion for helping others and making a positive impact drives him to connect with other entrepreneurs. He believes that those who share their expertise will ultimately benefit from their generosity. With support from industry experts, students can learn better and businesses can have access to a higher-quality pool of talent.

"I believe that for students to learn better, industry experts need to come in to support and help shape learning," said Farhan.

Singapore Polytechnic graduates kick-start green initiatives

More youths in Singapore are adopting technology to align with Singapore's green initiatives. SP Diploma in Maritime Business graduand Shanmugavel Sandhya and SP Diploma in Engineering with Business graduand Thattarupambal Manoj Gayathri started their initiatives in hydroponics and vertical farming. Sandhya also shared about her startup Econation, which used 3D printing technology at SP to create the composting bin prototype. She hopes to educate youth through composting workshops and introduce them to a 3-in-1 composting bin.



Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 19 Apr 2023



Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 14 Apr 2023

SP Alumnus helps bolster food sustainability in the Philippines with his start-up

SP alumnus Zheng Lianfu founded The Fruit Tree, a start-up that aims to help locals in The Philippines raise their income. The company brings in various trees to Davaos, with the hope of developing new projects and improving national food sustainability. Zheng shared that agriculture, technology, and food prices will need to work together to ensure a food supply chain that is accessible to the people.



Source: Lianhe Zaobao, 4 May 2023

Minister of Education encourages SP graduands to master AI and other technologies

Education Minister Chan Chun Sing delivered a speech at SP's graduation ceremony on 3 May. He reminded 200 graduates from the School of Computing that they need to embrace continuous learning and keep up with the latest developments. Special mention was given to Shi Tingxiao, one of 93 students to make the first cohort of SP graduates with a Diploma in Applied AI and Analytics. Shi worked with four classmates to develop an AI application. Their product automatically processes paper invoices and is 30 times more efficient than existing software in the market. Over 5,000 SP students will be graduating this round and 16 ceremonies will be held between the 2nd and 9th of this month.

On-Campus Privileges



SPORTS FACILITIES

Alumni access hours:

GYM@POOL

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

Saturday : 9am - 7pm

SWIMMING POOL

Weekdays : 9am - 4pm

Saturday : 4pm - 7pm

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



SP LIBRARY

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

Library membership is required to enter SP Library.

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

OPENING HOURS:

[Click here](#) for more information.

Off-Campus Privileges



ARTEA

10% discount

Terms and conditions apply



CRISAL SEAFOOD

15% off on LACTOSEAFOOD

Terms and conditions apply



LOCKDOWN

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

Terms and conditions apply



SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC GRADUATES' GUILD

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

Terms and conditions apply



THE ESCAPE ARTIST

10% discount for the entire bill

Terms and conditions apply



TUAN YUAN PORK RIBS SOUP

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

Terms and conditions apply



THE KETTLE GOURMET

5% discount when you quote "HAPPY5"

Terms and conditions apply

SPECIALIST DIPLOMA IN
**DATA PROTECTION
& AI GOVERNANCE**



HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The **only** Specialist Diploma on Data Protection & AI Governance offered by SP amongst other Polytechnics/ITE
- ✓ Trains participants to be **DPO** or **double-hat** as DPO in their organisations
- ✓ Equips how to incorporate **Personal Data Protection** requirements as part of the **Design Thinking** processes for data-driven activities
- ✓ The curriculum is aligned with the **DPO Competency Framework and Training Roadmap**



**PART-TIME
COURSE**



**HYBRID
TEACHING**

NEXT INTAKE IN
OCT'23

NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?

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

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

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



Journeying with you beyond **SP**

 Stay Connected @SPANalumni

Interested to partner SPAN? Reach out to us at SPAN@sp.edu.sg.