

SP Alliance & Network

SP Alumni eNews

November 2022



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
RAPHAEL AND DAVID TAY
CHARTING A MARITIME LEGACY**

Mr David Tay

Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR), 1979



Mr Raphael Tay

Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR), 2020

A SHARED PASSION FOR THE SEA

To this father and son pair - both SP Alumni - the sea is what binds them.

Mr David Tay graduated from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) with a Diploma in Marine Engineering (DMR) in 1979 and went on to pursue a seafaring career that took him around the world. Today, more than 40 years later, his son Raphael — who also graduated from DMR in 2020 — is embarking on a maritime adventure of his own.

Coming full circle, David joined the Singapore Maritime Academy in 2009 as a Senior Lecturer, and continues to pass on his knowledge as a Specialist (Teaching & Learning). Meanwhile, Raphael sails the Pacific Ocean as a 3rd Assistant Engineer with NYK Ship Management.

The Call of the Sea

Hearing about his father's seafaring experiences from a young age, Raphael developed a natural interest in the maritime industry. Over the years, his aspirations shifted. He considered teaching Physics, but subjects such as electrical and aeronautical engineering did not resonate with him.

"I went to the SP Open House, and that was when my interest was reignited. I was fascinated by how the machineries on-board are interlinked, and communicate with each other to ensure the safe operation of a vessel."

While David was supportive of any path that Raphael wanted to pursue, he was heartened at the prospect of his son contributing to an industry he considers the lifeblood of society.

"There's this saying 'without seafarers, half the world would starve and the other half would freeze', because a lot of things are moved by ships. I feel that Raphael made a good choice and answered the call of the sea."

In the Same Boat

Despite all the excitement that comes with learning the ins and outs of the maritime industry, Raphael's most memorable experience in SP was simply

hanging out with his friends in the library before classes.

"It's important to me because we were all going to be working in the same industry. The bonds that we formed during those lepak sessions keep us together, no matter where we are."

To illustrate his point, Raphael recalls a recent incident when a fire broke out on his vessel. When his friends heard about it, they immediately reached out to check on him.

"As seafarers, we need a lot of emotional support from our family and friends. It may have been a small gesture, but to me it was really meaningful."

The Anchor of the Global Economy

Having begun his seafaring career at the height of COVID-19, Raphael thinks that the pandemic has emphasised the maritime industry's importance to the global economy.

"Airports were shut down because of COVID, but we couldn't shut down our ports. Pandemic or no pandemic, the maritime industry will continue to run, no matter what state the world is in."

David adds that moving forward, maritime companies will be placing a larger focus on developing new processes, to ensure that the industry is prepared should a similar event occur in the future.

"Every time we have situations like this, we will look at the communication systems between all the parties involved. Because of SARS we had systems in

place, and I think we drew on that and handled the COVID situation well."

Not Always Smooth Sailing

When it comes to advice for aspiring seafarers, Raphael thinks that the most important thing is to be mentally prepared for a life at sea.

"You'll get to see the world, meet different people and experience different cultures. But you'll also spend months away from home, and it's very easy to slump into depression from the discouragement you'll sometimes face onboard."

"It takes a lot of strength to be able to handle it, but it's also very rewarding." David adds. "If you come into this industry, it's to ensure that society functions, so to speak."

Being in the same industry inherently creates a strong support system, and also serves as an opportunity for David and Raphael to bond as father and son. David says that Raphael shares new developments in the industry with him, while he provides advice based on his past experiences at sea.

"It gives us something in common, and I believe that our relationship has gotten much closer."

SP Alumnus Shahrin Abdol Salam appointed Managing Director of SMRT's Thomson-East Coast Line

SP Diploma in Electrical Engineering alumnus Shahrin Abdol Salam is the Managing Director of the newly-opened Thomson-East Coast Line. He joined SMRT as a maintenance engineer in 1998, and was given the opportunity to move up the ladder at the company. According to Shahrin, the rail industry is the backbone of Singapore's transport infrastructure, and is a growing sector that requires skilled workers.



Source: [Berita Minggu, 4 Sep 2022]

SP Alumnus Wang Yi Hang is a veteran in Singapore's food industry

SP alumnus Wang Yi Hang is playing a role in helping to secure Singapore's food supply. Influenced by his father, his first exposure to food technology was during his days at SP. Yi Hang has worked in the food industry since graduating, first joining the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore before moving on to his current role at the Singapore Food Agency.



Source: [Lianhe Zaobao, 16 Sep 2022]



Source: [Lianhe Zaobao, 14 Sep 2022]

SP Alumna Liang Junyi awarded the MaritimeONE Scholarship

SP Diploma in Nautical Studies alumna Liang Junyi is one of the recipients of the MaritimeONE Scholarship. Junyi developed a keen interest in the industry when she was 16 years old, and aspires to become a captain.

SP Alumnus Nur Fadhli Prayitno discovers a passion for social work

SP alumnus Nur Fadhli Prayitno intended to pursue a career in engineering after completing National Service (NS).

After undergoing NS, however, he became interested in counselling and mentoring young people, and continued his studies at the National University of Singapore in the field of social work in 2007. Today, Fadhli is an Assistant Director at SHINE Youth and Children's Services.



Source: [Berita Harian, 21 Sep 2022]

Preventing Myopia Onset & Progression in Children

DATE : 30 Nov • TIME : 3.30pm - 4.30pm • VENUE : Zoom

What is myopia? How prevalent is it in the world and Singapore? How do we correct a myopic eye? This webinar sheds light on how myopia progresses and current solutions to slow it down. You'll also pick up some tips and tricks on how to take care of children's vision.

Register here



For any enquiries, write in to SPAN@sp.edu.sg

SPEAKERS



Mr Andrew Tan
Consumer Research Analyst
Essilor Research & Development



Ms Wee Sing Ong
Consumer Research Analyst
Essilor Research & Development

Both speakers are Diploma in Optometry (DOPT) alumni from Singapore Polytechnic class of 2009. They are currently working as Study Managers and Principal Investigators in Essilor Research & Development, licensed optometrists in Singapore and experienced retail and clinical optometrists.

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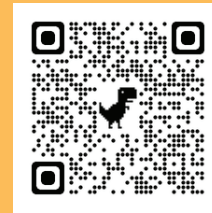
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