



**INSIGHTS**  
ENTREPRENEURIAL  
DREAMS MADE  
POSSIBLE AT RP

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**NEWS & UPDATES**  
CONNECTING  
ASPIRING  
ENTREPRENEURS  
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

It takes more than a great idea to start a business. Despite challenges, many young entrepreneurs continue to take industries by storm — innovating to meet emerging needs, creating meaningful jobs, and setting up social enterprises — it is evident that entrepreneurship is not just a buzz word, and entrepreneurs are here to transform the business scene.

Over the years, RP has helped many aspiring entrepreneurs fulfil their dreams through incubation, mentorship, as well as provision of various support networks. In this issue, we speak to the young founders of three start-ups incubated at RP (pages 1 to 5) to uncover their goals, initial challenges, support system, and plans for the future.

Events such as the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge are aimed to further fuel the entrepreneurial spirit in our students as they are given opportunities to showcase their start-up ideas. Through such participation, the winning teams are en route to achieving their dreams. Read all about their business ideas on pages 6 and 7. On page 8, find out how networking platforms such as Meet-up and Link-up for Start-ups have helped to connect aspiring entrepreneurs and start-up founders.

Entrepreneurship is not just about turning a profit, many entrepreneurs started their businesses due to their belief and passion in social causes. Read more about the team of students who, through social entrepreneurship, won themselves the Merit Award at the Citi-YMCA Youth For Causes 2019, on page 19. On the same page, learn more about our students' giving spirit through their Give a Gift Food Donation Drive and Carnival. We also share more about how RP is contributing to the healthcare sector in Singapore, on pages 9 and 10.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of incoRPorate, and stay safe.

From the incoRPorate editorial team

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*Information is correct at time of print. OCC / July 2020*



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# ENTREPRENEURSHIP: DARE TO DREAM

Entrepreneurship is on the uptrend. People are choosing to start their own business for a host of reasons – the freedom of being one's own boss, a desire for flexibility not found in traditional nine-to-five jobs, or a driving passion to create a business that they care deeply about.



Young and aspiring entrepreneurs sharing their start-up ideas with industry mentors at the iDARE Mentor Engagement event

## BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The significant role entrepreneurs and start-ups play in driving innovation and economic growth, creating jobs, and promoting social good, is something RP has long recognised.

Our ongoing efforts to actively nurture a strong entrepreneurial culture across campus clearly reflect this focus. Classroom experiences are designed to expose students to innovative start-ups and entrepreneurial skills. Extra-curricular activities — from the Youth Entrepreneurship Interest Group to internships — incorporate opportunities for students to be enterprising and

innovative in various projects and collaborations with companies.

## BECOMING AN ACCELERATOR

Prompted by the rising interest and increasing number of aspiring entrepreneurs amongst students and alumni in recent years, RP took a bold step to enhance capabilities as an accelerator for innovation and entrepreneurship.

On 1 January 2020, RP established the Office of Entrepreneurship Development (OED) to boost efforts in promoting and supporting entrepreneurial initiatives.

“RP students are unique and I think a key contributor to that is our

Problem-based Learning pedagogy, which helps to develop and nurture their confidence as well as problem-solving and presentation skills,” said Mr Neo Gim Kian, Director, OED, RP. “Many of our students are passionate about improving lives and making the world a better place through entrepreneurship. As the focal point of RP’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, OED connects aspiring entrepreneurs, students, alumni, faculty, investors, and industry; and expands our capabilities.”

As part of their learning and development, selected students have the opportunity to gain international entrepreneurial experience through internships at overseas start-ups and innovation hubs under the Global Entrepreneurial Internship Programme (GEIP). Initiatives such as the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge<sup>1</sup> also serve as a platform for students to share their passion, pitch their start-up ideas to industry partners and investors, secure seed funding, and acquire collaboration and market opportunities.

Over the years, RP has shaped the entrepreneurial ambitions of more than 4,300 individuals, mentored more than 100 individuals, and cultivated more than 35 start-ups. Amongst them are SNACUBE, TomoWork SG, and Motorist — three entrepreneurial success stories in this feature.

<sup>1</sup> Find out more about the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge on Pages 6 to 7!

## RP'S SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS: TURNING DREAMS INTO REALITY

A successful entrepreneurial ecosystem provides information, resources, and expertise that aspiring entrepreneurs seek. RP alumni co-founders of three start-ups share insights of their entrepreneurship journeys, including the RP ecosystem support that they have received from idea incubation to successful launch.

### SNACUBE

Founders: **Simon Hsieh** and **Joshua Ng**, *RP School of Sports, Health and Leisure alumni*

#### The Big Business Idea

SNACUBE was founded by three friends who saw an opportunity to offer businesses a turnkey service to manage office chores — from procuring

pantry supplies and ordering meals for meetings, to corporate events management. Inspired by the “fancy pantries of Facebook and Google”, this idea to offer similar corporate pantry management services to SMEs evolved from an earlier business project, dubbed “Dreambox Snacks” — a subscription-based snack box service.

#### Their Entrepreneurship Journey

“The Entrepreneurship Module we studied in RP inspired us,” explained

Simon. “It taught us to be problem solvers. We learnt to be observant and to identify pain points in life. Looking around, we were excited to find this business opportunity.”

The founders decided to bring their idea to RP's Mini Business Competition & Pitch Day in 2017, winning them the the “Best Go-To-Market” award, and receiving mentorship guidance to execute their proposal.

“Support from RP Office of Entrepreneurship Development (OED) and various RP programmes such as the Mini Business Competition have helped student entrepreneurs like us,” shared Joshua. “We secured our first client within the first month of incorporation and another account the month after. Although we had incorporated the business just a few months before our National Service enlistment, we managed to fulfil our commitments and kept the company running while serving the nation.”

#### What's Next?

Currently pursuing their university degrees, Joshua and Simon continue to manage SNACUBE, which is being incubated at RP's Business Incubation Centre.

“Running a business is challenging. There are endless things to learn and do, such as coming up with ideas to improve our services,” shared Simon. “Working closely with OED offers many advantages. In particular, we have been leveraging the RP network to expand our clientele base and explore new partnerships.”

*SNACUBE founders, Simon Hsieh and Joshua Ng*



Scan to find  
out more about  
**SNACUBE!**



## TOMOWORK SG

Founding Team:

**Naren Sanker**, *RP School of Management and Communication alumnus*  
**Cindy Chng**, *Nanyang Technological University alumna*

### The Big Business Idea

When para-athletes Naren and Edwin became friends at the ASEAN Para Games 2017, they discovered not only each other's career dreams, but also the similar barriers they faced as persons with disabilities (PWDs). Undeterred, they decided, along with mutual friend, Cindy, that it was time to make a change. In October 2019, the team was formed with the idea to create a digital platform for matching PWDs with potential employers.



### Their Entrepreneurship Journey

Since 2019, RP's Business Incubation Centre has supported TomoWork with mentorship and industry networking opportunities. Participating in events such as Smart Nation & U Family Fiesta and RP's Open house 2020, and working on projects with students from RP School of Management and Communication helped build its talent database and raise awareness amongst companies to create employment for PWDs.

“Did you know that “Tomo” means “friend” in Japanese?”

In July 2019, Sumitomo Life Insurance Company (Japan) joined hands in building TomoWork to advocate for more diverse and inclusive work environments in Singapore.

“We are thankful to partners who have believed in our cause and supported us financially. Not having to invest extra resources for fundraising keeps our operations lean, and that has helped us to remain focused in our work,” shared Cindy.

Cindy received the **\*SCAPE Most Innovative Start-up Award** at the National Youth Entrepreneurship Awards (NYEA) 2020. The award celebrates the entrepreneurial qualities and achievements of outstanding individuals and recognises their contributions to the start-up ecosystem.

*TomoWork founders, Cindy Chng and Naren Sanker*



*The TomoWork team at the Smart Nation & U Family Fiesta*

TomoWork has expanded beyond its technology-focused platform to include a new line of business that supports its growing base of about 100 PWDs. Their management team has grown from three to five persons, and 30 PWDs are engaged on a project basis.

TomoWork's PWD Talent Accelerator Initiative in September 2019 successfully placed 30% of its PWDs in full-time employment within three months of joining the programme, and one member secured a job with a Fortune 500 company.

### What's Next?

While TomoWork is making gradual progress, the push for PWD employment is challenging as they work simultaneously to change companies' perceptions and create differentiated work environments.

“RP has given tremendous support to young entrepreneurs like ourselves, enabling us to have more time to learn and grow,” summed up Naren. “OED's excellent infrastructure and support have enabled our start-up to evolve steadily. Our goal is to provide more opportunities for PWDs to create value for themselves and organisations, and to inspire others.”



Scan to find out more about  
**TomoWork SG!**



## MOTORIST

Founder: **Damian Sia**,  
RP School of Infocomm  
alumnus

### The Big Business Idea

The challenges of managing dealers and buyers when selling his car in 2011 was the catalyst Damian needed to develop Motorist — a digital platform with smart tools and services for simplifying vehicle ownership that disrupts the brick-and-mortar automotive industry. Motorist has since expanded to support a comprehensive range of car management services, such as online valuation, motor insurance/COE renewals, and roadside and valet assistance. The start-up has also successfully secured its first round of seed funding from the co-founders of JobsCentral and Zopim in January 2019.



The team behind Motorist, dedicated to providing digital solutions for vehicle owners

### His Entrepreneurship Journey

Since his teenage years, Damian aspired to follow in the footsteps of his entrepreneur parents, to pursue a career that could help “improve people’s lives”. The entrepreneurial culture and support he found at RP helped transform his business idea into reality.

Since 2011, RP has supported Damian’s start-up venture through incubation, mentorship, and access to venture capital contacts. Motorist has also received funding via SPRING Singapore YES! Startups scheme, now replaced by the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) scheme.

A serial entrepreneur for over 10 years, Damian understands the importance of acquiring entrepreneurial skills. “I learnt perseverance on my very first challenge. To change people’s perceptions and gain their trust, I had to demonstrate how we could help them. Learning to seek feedback

and use data analytics helped us understand our customers better and improve our products,” he said.

Starting out as a one-man-show — acting as salesman, accountant, and website developer — Damian now has over 40 employees in three different countries. “We serve more than 272,000 customers and close to 50,000 Motorist app users,” shared Damian. “Finding the right management balance and synergy is vital, especially for start-ups. We empower employees to be leaders, to come up with initiatives that benefit the company.”

### What’s Next?

Damian has set his sights on achieving \$10 million in revenue by growing Motorist’s user base and profitability. He believes that accelerator organisations, such as RP Office of Entrepreneurship Development and ACE, provide critical support for start-ups beyond their launch phase. “Their support enables entrepreneurs to develop the necessary business models and skills to progress. Continued innovation is essential to our success,” he said.



**motorist**  
FOR SMART DRIVERS

## The App For Smart Drivers

The Motorist App is a smart vehicle management platform that's designed to simplify car ownership in Singapore.

Scan to Download

**Notifications & Reminders**  
Receive notifications and reminders for road tax, vehicle inspections, COE expiry, vehicle recalls, and HDB season parking expiry.

**Road & Valet Assistance**  
Get immediate and affordable help for valet, towing, and more from our trusted valet and roadside assistance partners.

**Drivers Connect**  
Send messages or share video evidence with fellow drivers with our car plate messaging feature.

Featured on

Damian Sia and his business partner, Angela Poh



Scan to find out more about **Motorist!**



# HOW RP CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAMS

Start-ups do not succeed by chance. Aspiring entrepreneurs operating in today's rapidly-evolving digital economy need support across their entrepreneurship journey, from business ideation to launch, and beyond.

"The Office of Entrepreneurship Development (OED) aims to curate a Whole-of-RP entrepreneurial experience that supports the learning and development of aspiring entrepreneurs amongst students and alumni. This experience is achieved through three areas – establishing a growth mindset, developing future-proof skillsets, and leveraging value-centred approaches," shared OED's Director Mr Neo. "We provide ideation and incubation spaces and makerspace facilities; organise entrepreneurship activities; rally technical and business mentors; and reach out to pre-start-up investors in hopes of building an entrepreneurial culture in RP to support entrepreneurs and start-ups at every stage of their journey."

## OED'S START-UP RESOURCES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

### Business Consultancy Services

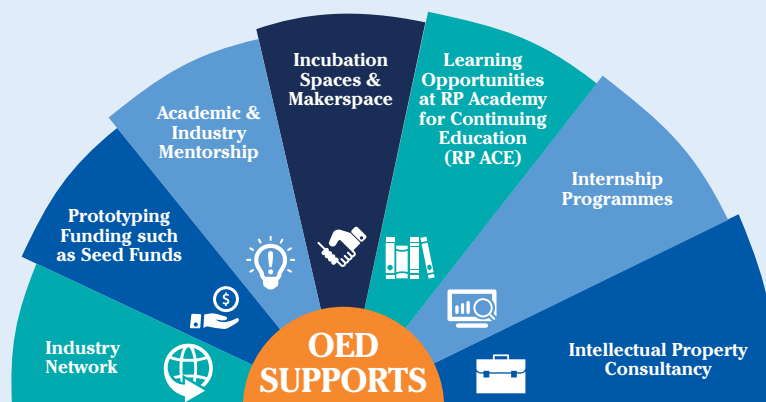
Entrepreneurs can access expert advice to identify targeted entrepreneurship education, develop business plans, navigate complex regulations, and set up their company.

OED's consultancy services potentially accelerate the life cycle of young

innovative companies by compressing years of learning and preparation into much shorter timeframes, thus increasing their chances of achieving success and returns on investments.

### Transforming Innovative Ideas into Commercial Opportunity

OED offers practical help in the form of programmes, such as competitions and internships, to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs to push their skills and ideas to the next level. Through participating in these programmes,



Support services offered to RP start-ups



budding entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to widen their professional and social networks.

These networks, comprising local and international investors from various industry sectors, are potential partners for start-ups. OED creates such multi-disciplinary platforms to help entrepreneurs gain direct access to real-world mentors and market opportunities that their start-up ideas need to take off.

### Developing Sustainable Start-Ups

OED adds value by supporting entrepreneurs with funding support, mentorship, and access to physical infrastructure that supports business incubation and prototyping.

OED's goal is to enhance eco-system collaboration and funding, and drive increased innovation and product development as these are key to building sustainable start-ups. Exciting initiatives are in the pipeline to enhance our capabilities to help promising entrepreneurs and start-ups flourish.



### Calling all aspiring entrepreneurs!

RP OED is accepting applications to help entrepreneurs get started on their start-up journey. Connect with us to find out about latest ideas, emerging trends, and best practices that drive innovation and successful entrepreneurship journeys.

To find out more and join our growing community, email [help-startup@rp.edu.sg](mailto:help-startup@rp.edu.sg)



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INCORPORATE

Happy participants with their mentors and competition judges at the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge 2020

## iDare to Dream an Entrepreneurial Dream

Organised by the RP Office of Entrepreneurship Development (OED), the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge 2020's Pitch Day Finals was held on 7 February. This year's competition saw 137 unique submissions from over 600 aspiring students.

Through careful evaluation, 10 teams were selected to pitch their business ideas before an experienced judging panel comprising venture capitals (VC), established entrepreneurs, and representatives from RP's senior management.



Judges giving their insightful feedback on the teams' pitches

The students' pitches were evaluated based on the following criteria:

### ★ Content

- Differentiation
- Potential Market Opportunity
- Operational Capability

### ★ Pitch Delivery

### ★ Question and Answer (Q&A) Session




# THE *Winning Ideas*

Bringing them a step closer to their entrepreneurial dreams, the top three teams were rewarded with vouchers and seed money alongside mentorship support. To further help develop their ideas, RP OED will continue to work closely with these winning teams, as well as collaborate with industry partners to aid the students in validating their prototypes after the competition.

## Champion




 With an increase in production costs and a lack of physical space, flower nurseries have seen lower profit margins in recent years. Using technology, the flower production process is optimised and automated, easing reliance on manual labour. The team also aims to implement AI and data analytics in achieving a resource-friendly method of growing flowers.

**Team:** LivingTech  
**Members:** Muhammad Alfyan B Sapwan and Tan Qian Ting  
**School:** School of Infocomm

## First Runner-Up and Best Teamwork




 Noticing a decline in authenticity of Singaporean dishes, the team sought to provide fresh local ingredients for local fare, portioned to specific serving sizes. The prepacked ingredients, as well as options for delivery timings, gives working adults the option of cooking their own meals without the hassle of procuring and preparing all the ingredients.

**Team:** KooKit  
**Members:** Diniy Nasuha Binte Ismail and Farah Adilah Binte Mohamed Kamari  
**School:** School of Sports, Health and Leisure

## Second Runner-Up and Best Innovation



 As awareness on sustainability continues to grow, the team was inspired to introduce sustainable leather products into the market. The alternative leather products are designed with quality in mind, allowing users to reap the full benefits of leather such as durability, colour, and functionality, while still retaining environmental-friendliness.

**Team:** Suskin — The Sustainable Leather Co.  
**Members:** Wong Sok Wei and Ong Kai Lin  
**School:** School of Management and Communication

## Connecting Start-Ups, Building a Community



An engaging sharing session by our four panellists

Held at \*SCAPE, the *Meet-up, Link-up for Start-ups* alumni event is an outreach and networking event for entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs. The 22 November 2019 event was jointly organised by RP School of Management and Communication, Enterprise Services Centre, Office of Student and Graduate Affairs, RP Alumni Club (RPAC), and \*SCAPE.

With entrepreneurship on the rise in Singapore, the event connects start-up founders and budding entrepreneurs, as well as creates further awareness on the entrepreneurship support available for start-ups. Through the event, participants were able to network with one another and learn more about the start-up community in Singapore.

Mr Tomo Farid, Committee Member, RPAC, began the evening with a welcome speech, before RP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with \*SCAPE to collaborate on the *\*SCAPE HubQuarters Advisors Programme* and *RP-\*SCAPE Sandbox Projects*. The programme serves as a platform for \*SCAPE start-ups to seek the advice and expertise of RP's entrepreneurship advisors, while the sandbox projects allow RP start-ups and

student teams to test-bed and validate project initiatives benefitting the \*SCAPE community.

Participants then sat in on an insightful fireside chat to acquaint themselves with the funding and support available for start-ups. The distinguished panellists comprised Ms Shirley Tan, Director (Programmes and Marcom), \*SCAPE; Mr Leslie Sim, Assistant Director, Office of Entrepreneurship Development, RP; and Mr Allan Lim, Manager, Action Community for Entrepreneurship.



Event participants getting to know one another over a scrumptious dinner

# Creating a Real-World Healthcare Logistics Experience

With healthcare demands on the rise in Singapore due to the ageing population and an increase in patients with chronic diseases, the local healthcare system has undergone much transformation through the years to meet current and future population healthcare needs. As such, the healthcare supply chain is increasingly becoming a crucial process in the industry — managing supply and equipment flow, as well as delivering services from manufacturers to patients.

Designed in collaboration with ST Logistics, the Republic Polytechnic-ST Logistics Healthcare Supply Chain Laboratory was launched by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health at RP Open House 2020 on 9 January 2020. The first-of-its-kind laboratory in Singapore's higher learning sector is modelled after integrated healthcare supply chain systems and an actual control tower system (SiTadeL) in the industry, and serves as a platform for research and application of ready technologies for the optimisation of healthcare supply chain processes.



An RP student demonstrating the functions of *Inventory Monitoring@Hospital Wards* to Dr Lam Pin Min

Through hands-on practice in this state-of-the-art laboratory, students from RP's Supply Chain Management and Pharmaceutical Science programmes will be better prepared for careers in the healthcare sector. Developed by RP final-year students, a project at the laboratory, *Inventory Monitoring@Hospital Wards*, utilises proximity and weight sensors to push inventory information to Google Sheets for electronic monitoring of inventories. Additionally, a Smart Vending Machine featured at the laboratory has begun dispensing medication to Admiralty Medical Centre patients since March 2020.

In addition, RP has also signed an MOU with ST Logistics at the Open House. The partnership will provide internship, recruitment, and employment opportunities to RP students, as well as Continuing Education and Training (CET) opportunities for ST Logistics staff to upskill themselves.



Guest-of-Honour Dr Lam Pin Min trying out the Smart Vending Machine at the laboratory

## Establishing the Health Marketplace

Increasing population healthcare needs and a shortage of healthcare professionals in Singapore have directed the Ministry of Health's aims in shifting the focus of population care, beyond healthcare to health, and beyond hospital to community, creating an opportunity for pre-frail and frail seniors to age-in-place at home.

Organised by RP School of Sports, Health and Leisure (SHL), the inaugural RP Health Marketplace took place on 18 November 2019 with 300 delegates in attendance. The Marketplace is an outlet for like-minded individuals to Communicate, Collaborate, and Co-create services to enable ageing-in-place for community-dwelling seniors in Singapore. SHL has collaborated with several hospitals and institutions on such products and services, and these projects were exhibited at the event.

Officiated by Guest-of-Honour, Dr Benjamin Koh, Deputy Secretary (Development), Ministry of Health, the event also saw the inking of two new

MOUs with Institute of Mental Health (IMH) and Woodlands Health Campus (WHC). The partnership with IMH focuses on jointly raising mental health awareness. RP will also collaborate with WHC to build up a healthier environment in Woodlands for delivering interventions. Both MOUs will open doors to academic, employment, and staff development opportunities across the organisations.



Utilising Virtual Reality (VR) technology to create population health solutions



RP alumni, in their roles as Technical Support Officers, alongside Project Staff, showcasing their project, **Blood Pressure Estimation Using Machine Learning Techniques**

## An ezi Way to Recycle



*RP staff and students posing with model of a mobile phone created from recyclable materials at the launch of the app*

Aiming to boost recycling habits in Singapore as part of sustainable living, RP has worked closely with Sembcorp Industries (Sembcorp)

on the development of *ezi*, a mobile application (app) that simplifies and encourages recycling.

Launched by Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources at Kampung Admiralty on 10 November 2019, the app encourages recycling through interactive educational elements and doorstep collection services. Users are further incentivised through rewards upon successful collection of their recyclables.

Doorstep collection services for recyclables were first rolled out to households with postal codes beginning in 73 within the Woodlands area, with plans to roll out this service to other residential zones by end-2020. The app is currently available for download on both the Apple Store and Google Play. Download *ezi* and start recycling now!



Scan this QR Code to visit the *ezi* website and find out more about the app!



## RP Digitalisation Day 2019 – Innovating with Technology

Themed *Digital to the Core and Serves with Heart*, the inaugural RP Digitalisation Day 2019 was held on 9 October with over 400 staff and guests in attendance. Focusing on analytics, automation, and infrastructure, the event celebrated the innovative problem-solving spirit at RP.

Prior to the event, 71 projects from almost 200 participants were submitted for the Digitalisation Challenge 2019, with 25 projects being selected for exhibition at the event. Winners of the challenge were awarded with prizes and certificates at

RP Digitalisation Day 2019, and invited to present their projects to event attendees.

Participants also gained new perspectives by attending insightful seminars on how technology and digital tools can aid the workplace by propelling innovation and enhancing productivity. The event attendees were then invited on the Digitalisation Challenge Experiential Tour where they participated in an interactive Augmented Reality (AR) journey through the *Zappar* app.



*Event attendees scanning a poster of RP Principal/CEO Mr Yeo Li Pheow, with the **Zappar** app on their mobile phones, to watch him appear in a video and talk about digitalisation and the event*

“We want to be thoughtful about how EduSpaze operates as an edtech accelerator at a local and regional level. Drawing on my background in the edtech space in Finland, I would like to leverage global best practices to help stimulate innovation in the space here in Singapore.”

Niko Lindholm,  
Programme Director, EduSpaze

01. Educating entrepreneurs with entrepreneurial educators

## GROWING EDTECH START-UPS WITH EDUSPAZE

Eager to promote entrepreneurship and support the start-up culture in Singapore, RP inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2019 with EduSpaze, Singapore's first educational technology (edtech) accelerator, supported by Enterprise Singapore.

Unlike the fixed programmes offered by traditional accelerators, EduSpaze tailors the edtech experience to each start-up's specific needs. Instead of an 'entrepreneur in residence', EduSpaze boasts an 'educator in residence' to provide insights from the education sector.

Through this partnership, staff at RP and EduSpaze can look forward to staff attachments and joint projects, with the first RP staff having begun an attachment at EduSpaze in March 2020. RP students will also have the

chance to take part in internship programmes with EduSpaze.

Budding entrepreneurs at RP — both current students and alumni alike — will be pleased to know that they can collaborate on joint programmes or pilot projects, as well as receive mentorship to help them to realise their entrepreneurial dreams. Mr Alex Ng, Managing Director of EduSpaze, has since mentored two start-up teams from RP who emerged top 10 in RP's iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>2</sup> Find out more about the iDARE Entrepreneurial Challenge on Pages 6 to 7!





*Reaffirming old partnerships and establishing new connections at the DEEE Industry Day 2019*

## REVOLUTIONISING THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

With Industry 4.0 rapidly taking industries by storm, the electrical and electronics industry also needs to remain relevant and up to date. RP School of Engineering (SEG) constantly works closely with industry partners to prepare students for careers in the industry, through events such as the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE) Industry Day 2019.

At the DEEE Industry Day 2019 held on 17 September, RP signed two new MOUs with National Instruments Singapore Pte Ltd (NI) and Schneider Electric Asia Pte Ltd (Schneider Electric), along with renewing an MOU with Beyonics International Pte Ltd (Beyonics).

The renewed partnership with Beyonics will see RP and Beyonics

collaborating on internships, joint projects, scholarship sponsorships, and industry talks for students.

NI and SEG will work on jointly establishing an NI-equipped facility at RP's Smart Devices Lab, to develop industry-ready diploma graduates and build skillsets of Continuing Education and Training (CET) learners. In addition, NI will provide sponsorship and scholarship opportunities for RP students.

SEG will also partner with Schneider Electric on internship opportunities, projects and sponsorships for RP students, as well as opportunities for staff to take part in Industry Attachment Scheme (IAS) and CET programmes, such as Work-Study Programme and learning journeys.

## COLLABORATING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

RP School of Applied Science (SAS) inked an MOU with Shimadzu Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (Shimadzu), with the goal of jointly establishing a training and research laboratory facility at RP, for the delivery of Pre-employment Training (PET) and CET curricula. In preparation for the new joint laboratory, RP representatives also went on a tour of Shimadzu's analytical and clinical laboratory.

Named S.T.A.R (Sustainable Technology and Analytical Research) Laboratory, the new laboratory at RP will be part of the training for RP students and industry partners, as well as facilitate sustainable resources research. In line with the United Nations sustainable development goals that the Singapore Government is committed to, future research areas will include sustainable materials,



functional foods for healthy ageing, and urban farming.

Shimadzu will be providing tools for the new laboratory, including Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS), Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometer, Fourier Transform-Infra Red (FTIR) Spectrometer, as well as integrated laboratory solutions. These state-of-the-art analytical instruments managed by Analytical Intelligence (A.I) will serve as a learning platform for students and laboratory technicians to explore laboratory informatics and the use of modern analytical instrumentation.

The partnership will also result in collaborative research and projects; co-development of the PET and CET curricula; as well as co-organisation of networking and knowledge transfer events, industry talks, workshops, and excursions. RP students can look forward to collaborations on exciting Final Year Projects (FYP) and internship programmes, along with sponsored scholarships, book prizes, and bursaries. Additionally, RP lecturers can take part in train-the-trainer courses, as well as staff attachment opportunities at Shimadzu.



## UPSKILLING THE TRADING COMMUNITY WITH SCA

The Singapore Customs Academy (SCA) has appointed RP and Nanyang Polytechnic, to deliver a series of short courses for the trading community. Signed on 27 November 2019, the MOU will aid in upskilling professionals in the freight forwarding and logistics industry, as well as further train and engage the trading community as a whole.

With the introduction of these courses, SCA looks to enhance



02

industry awareness and promote compliance of Singapore Customs' regulatory requirements for the import, export, transshipment, and transit of goods. Held at RP Academy for Continuing Education (ACE) @ Paya Lebar at the Lifelong Learning Institute, the courses will tap on RP's teaching experience in order to improve the experience and effectiveness of adult learning.

01. Representatives from Shimadzu and RP at the MOU Signing Ceremony

02. The start of a partnership to upskill the trading community in Singapore

03. Ms Emida Nataray, Director, School of Technology for the Arts, RP and Mr Philip Wu, CEO, Grid Synergy Pte Ltd with the newly signed MOU



03

## BUILDING SYNERGY WITH GRID SYNERGY

On 29 November 2019, RP began a new partnership with Grid Synergy Pte Ltd (Grid Synergy), a creative media technology company that utilises Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computer vision to provide tech-enabled solutions. The

partnership will provide RP students with the opportunity to take part in internships and joint projects, while staff from both parties will have the chance to participate in joint projects involving content creation and immersive experiences. As part of the MOU, RP will make some of our relevant facilities and equipment available for the joint projects. Grid Synergy will also fund scholarships and other awards for RP students during the course of the MOU.

Prior to the MOU, RP has previously collaborated with Grid Synergy on our Specialist Diploma in Digital Content Creation for Business under the SkillsFuture Work-Study Programme. RP graduates have also been hired by Grid Synergy, and internship placements may facilitate further opportunities for our graduates to work with Grid Synergy in the future.



*RP will work closely with our partners in Vietnam for future collaborations between both educational institutions*

## FORMING A PARTNERSHIP ABROAD WITH UEH

Looking overseas, RP inked an MOU with University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH) on 3 December 2019.

The partnership will facilitate academic exchanges and

attachments for students and staff, as well as overseas trips, and leadership development and service-learning programmes for students. Both parties will also be able to work closely on joint academic research and share knowledge through joint seminars and conferences.

Along with future plans for joint lectures, both institutions are currently discussing the viability of conducting CET programmes in Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore to develop service sector capabilities in Vietnam. The proposed programmes are to be jointly conducted by RP School of Hospitality and UEH in both Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City.

## SUPPORTING MARINE CONSERVATION AND AQUACULTURE RESEARCH WITH JCUS

RP has worked closely with James Cook University Singapore (JCUS) on marine-related projects over the years, and on 9 December 2019, we renewed our partnership with JCUS. Both institutions have jointly committed to further advance aquaculture-related research and education. The MOU includes the establishment of a joint laboratory, to be situated at Aquaria — RP's purpose-built aquaculture centre.

Named the JCU-RP Joint Marine Conservation Laboratory, the facility allows for applied research and development in the areas of marine conservation and aquaculture technologies. Both educational institutions are also working closely to determine the biology and distribution patterns of near-threatened bamboo sharks in Singapore, a project funded by Wildlife Reserves Singapore.

*Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, RP with Professor Chris Rudd, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Head of Campus, JCUS at the MOU signing ceremony*





Thumbs up for more collaborations in the growing travel and tourism industry

## ADVANCING TOURISM WITH CHAN BROTHERS

With the aim of enhancing the hospitality curriculum and developing opportunities in the travel and tourism sectors, RP and Chan Brothers Pte Ltd

(Chan Brothers) have inked an MOU on 12 December 2019.

New collaborations and initiatives under the MOU include innovative joint projects, research, and guest lectures to enhance SOH's travel and tourism curriculum. RP students can also look forward to internship opportunities, student scholarship programmes, and FYP guidance by experienced industry practitioners.

“Dynamic, young talents are critical to the success of our highly competitive travel business, and we are eager to nurture this next generation of leaders.”

**Ms Jessica Chang**, Head, Human Resources, Chan Brothers Pte Ltd



All together now — representatives from the various organisations involved in the partnership with JTC

## NURTURING TALENTS WITH JTC

On 15 January, RP signed an MOU with JTC Corporation (JTC), four other local polytechnics<sup>3</sup>, Institute of Technical Education (ITE), SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), Workforce Singapore (WSG), and Employment and Employability Institute (e2i) at the JTC Aerospace Community Engagement 2020.

Part of JTC's Industry Connect initiative, the MOU aims to foster collaborative partnerships between industry, academia, and government agencies in the areas of talent development, technology adoption, and environmental sustainability.

RP, together with the local polytechnics, ITE, and notable aerospace companies, also inked the Aerospace Student Outreach Initiatives MOU with JTC, Association of Aerospace

Industries (Singapore), and e2i, to reaffirm the collaboration to build a strong talent pipeline for the aerospace sector.

Under this MOU, students can take part in internships and receive mentorship, as well as participate in outreach and industry engagement events alongside staff. They can also look forward to participating in exciting industry events such as Aerospace Day, Aerospace Engineering Week, and Aerospace Career Fair.

<sup>3</sup> Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, and Temasek Polytechnic.



Marking another significant step in further strengthening our friendship with Thales

## DEEPENING TIES WITH THALES

RP has had a longstanding relationship with Thales Solutions Asia Pte Ltd (Thales), and we renewed our MOU with

them on 31 January 2020. We have collaborated with Thales on staff industry attachments and projects. Thales has also provided sponsorships to our students.

Through the renewed partnership, students will continue to receive mentorship and embark on internship placements with Thales. Students and staff can also look forward to educational and insightful joint industry talks. With the launch of RP SEG's Integrated Transport Learning Hub in the pipeline, both RP and Thales are looking into the possibility of future collaborations during the course of our partnership.



Representatives from RP and Rolls-Royce at the Singapore Airshow 2020

## ENGINEERING THE FUTURE WITH ROLLS-ROYCE

Held on 13 February 2020, the Singapore Airshow 2020 was the venue for RP's renewal of our partnership with Rolls-Royce. The MOU entails project collaborations, student learning

activities, industry attachments, networking, as well as the development of PET and CET course curricula, such as that of the Specialist Diploma in Advanced Composite at RP.

Both parties are looking into further collaborations on manpower training in composites in aerospace applications for Rolls-Royce staff, as well as the development of teaching materials for RP students.



Students and staff can also look forward to potential project collaborations in the following technology focus areas:

- ..... Materials Support Technology
- ..... Computational Engineering
- ..... Electrical Power and Control Systems
- ..... Manufacturing Technology
- ..... Predictive Maintenance for Aircraft Engine Repair

## SHOWING CARE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

RP School of Engineering (SEG) students and staff conducted their yearly Give a Gift Food Donation Drive for needy families in Woodlands. The team collaborated with NTUC Fairprice, Fei Yue Family Service Centre (Fei Yue), and Woodlands grassroots organisations across the nine-day donation event, to distribute pamphlets and promote the \$10 Care Package to NTUC Fairprice patrons. Through their efforts, the team raised \$5,840 worth of food donations, with 368 Care Packages from NTUC Fairprice patrons and an additional 216 packages donated by SEG staff.

On 21 September 2019, beneficiaries collected their Care Packages and enjoyed fun and educational engineering-related games at the Food Donation Carnival at Woodlands Community Club, jointly organised by students and staff from SEG and School of Technology for the Arts (STA). The event was graced by Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Health and advisor to Woodlands grassroots organisations. Mr Amrin Amin also gave out recognition certificates and tokens to our volunteers and partners.



Students and staff stationed outside an NTUC Fairprice store in Woodlands with a poster to inform passers-by and patrons about the donation drive

## ACHIEVING THE MERIT AWARD FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP



The happy team members with their mentors on stage receiving their Merit Award

A team of four students from RP's Diploma in Consumer Behaviour & Research took part in Citi-YMCA Youth For Causes (YFC) 2019, a community initiative which promotes social entrepreneurship and community leadership development through a community service project-based competition. The team chose the Association for the Deaf as their beneficiary, and received seed funding, training, and mentorship for their project.

The students went through a series of YMCA-conducted boot camps, events, and activities from May to August 2019, as part of their project. With their new knowledge, the team then organised sign language workshops, and briefing and training sessions for other student volunteers, to prepare for their event, Ballin' Empathy. Their hard work and determination in raising awareness for the deaf community eventually won them the Merit Award.

# Giving to Inspire

— IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE MS YU XIN YI



Photo credit: The New Paper

Ms Yu Xin Yi graduated from RP in 2015 with a Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science. However, her road to academic success was not an easy one. Throughout her life, Ms Yu showed resilience and courage in the face of challenges thrown her way.

Diagnosed with renal failure at the young age of 13, Ms Yu had to undergo dialysis treatment as well as a kidney transplant. Life then dealt her another cruel blow when she was 20, in the form of a rare, life-threatening blood disease. She fought bravely against her illnesses to complete her education, and went on to work as a Peritoneal Dialysis Care Assistant at the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) upon graduation. Ms Yu was also known to often volunteer passionately for various NKF activities.

Although she battled her illnesses with courage, Ms Yu passed away due to complications after a bone marrow transplant in 2018. In memory of Ms Yu's fighting spirit, her family made a donation to RP, for her resilience and courage to continue inspiring future generations of RP students.

RP is immensely grateful to Ms Yu's family, whose gift will benefit students from lower-income families pursuing a Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science. Her family hopes that the bursary awards will be able to support these students through their studies, enabling them to create lasting impact in the field of medicine, and carry on Ms Yu's legacy by inspiring others in turn.

**Bursary award provides financial assistance to students, allowing them to:**



Defray their  
tuition fees



Purchase course-  
related materials  
or books



Focus on studies  
instead of  
part-time work

## TEA SESSIONS WITH A CAUSE



Board members of the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund, student beneficiaries of the Fund, and RP staff at the tea session

**“Some people make choices that change lives. Thank you for being one of them! I am very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as one of the recipients of your bursary. You have improved my family's financial situation and allowed me to focus more on the most important aspect of school. Your generosity inspired me to help others and give back to the community.”**

**Lynette Lim Pei Rong,**

Recipient of the S R Nathan Education Award in Academic Years (AY) 2018 and 2019

Every year, RP hosts tea sessions for donors of private bursaries. Donors get to meet their beneficiaries in person, and our students are also given the chance to personally express their gratitude to the generous donors.

We organised a tea session for board members of the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund and their student beneficiaries on 16 January 2020. Our students and donors took the time to get to know each other better. The beneficiaries were grateful for the positive impact the bursary award had on their lives, and shared more about their hobbies, career aspirations, part-time work experiences, as well as how the bursary has helped them.

The S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund was extended to RP in 2013 by former President of Singapore, the late Mr S R Nathan. The fund provides financial aid

for eligible Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates who are pursuing RP's diploma programmes. To date, 59 RP students have received the bursary award, with more eligible students set to receive financial aid for their education journeys in the future.

**Make a  
Difference**  
in the Life of Our Students

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**95%** subsidy!  
or use your SkillsFuture credits



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- Applied Science  
(Nutrition and Food Science)
- \* Applied Science  
(Pharmaceutical Sciences)
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(Digital Marketing and Branding) **NEW**
- \* Business Practice  
(Hospitality Management)
- Business Practice  
(International Human Resources Management)
- \* Engineering  
(Electrical and Electronics)
- Engineering  
(Operations and Engineering Management)
- Engineering  
(Vehicular Technology Operations)
- \* Health Sciences (Health Management)
- Sports (Coaching)

### Specialist Diplomas in:

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- Career Counselling
- # Cloud Architecting and Management
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- Integrated Care Management
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