



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

SMU Academy and SST to partner in new technopreneurship programme

First-of-its kind programme to be offered to secondary three students at SST from this year

Singapore, 27 February 2023 (Monday) - SMU Academy, the professional training arm of Singapore Management University (SMU), and the School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) today signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to partner in a new **SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme**, to be offered later this year to SST's students. This is the first time SMU Academy is partnering with a local secondary school in its curriculum, a testament to SMU Academy's commitment to supporting lifelong learning.

A first of its kind, the SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme introduces technopreneurship concepts to secondary school students. It is designed to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop their innovative spirit and nurture their entrepreneurial aspirations from a young age. It will be offered to the entire cohort of secondary three SST students from July 2023 and further extended to a select group of students who are placed in the SST-Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Integrated Diploma Programme (IDP) from 2024.

Under the SST-NP IDP, students from SST progress directly to a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) course in NP without having to sit the Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Examination Ordinary Level (GCE O-Level) examination. The key goal of the IDP is to provide an extended applied and integrated learning experience for students who have thrived in SST and would have made a clear choice to progress to NP.

The 10-week SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme comprises specially designed modules taught by industry experts. Esteemed Singapore entrepreneurs, some of whom are SMU alumni, will also be on board as guest lecturers to introduce the principles and practices of technopreneurship. They include Benjamin Wong of Kinobi; Derrick Lee and Quah Zheng Wei of Accredify; Karen Cheah of AlterPacks; and Ng Yi Ming of StackUp (please see *Annex 1* for more details). The programme will also include learning journeys to local startups and culminate in a hackathon, thus providing a holistic and experiential learning experience to students.

Jack Lim, Executive Director of SMU Academy, said, "SMU Academy has been augmenting educational opportunities in the adult learning space and contributing to the growth of Singapore's talent pool. This partnership with SST is our first foray into the secondary education space and illustrates our commitment to supporting lifelong learning. Through the SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme, we are delighted to be creating a unique curriculum that will deepen secondary students' interest in and understanding of the technological landscape and equipping young, aspiring technopreneurs with strong foundational skill sets. In time to come, we hope some of them will join the pool of tech talents and tech business owners in Singapore."

Nick Chan, Principal of SST, said, "We are excited to partner with SMU Academy in this programme to provide opportunities for our students to enhance their STEM knowledge and skills in an extended applied and integrated learning approach. By cultivating an innovative and technopreneurial mindset

through this programme, we hope to build a strong foundation for our students to join the industry in the future.”

- End -

Enclosure:

Annex 1 - Guest lecturers of the SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme

For media queries, please contact:

SMU

Huang Peiling
Senior Assistant Director, Corporate Communications
9845-3361 | plhuang@smu.edu.sg

SST

Han Siu Yin
Head of Department, English Language
81681978 | han_siu_yin@sst.edu.sg

About Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU’s mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge based economy. SMU’s education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning.

Home to over 12,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU is comprised of eight schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, Yong Pung How School of Law, School of Social Sciences. College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU’s city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

About SMU Academy

Since its inception, Singapore Management University (SMU) has built a strong reputation as an innovative and progressive management university with a well-established interactive pedagogy incorporating business cases and strategic links with leading businesses and industry. Leveraging on SMU’s reputation and linkages, SMU Academy offers a comprehensive array of cutting-edge interdisciplinary programmes that supports lifelong learners in their pursuit of continuing education while helping organisations meet their upskilling and reskilling goals. <http://academy.smu.edu.sg/>

About SST

The School of Science and Technology, Singapore (SST) is a Specialised Independent School (SIS) that provides a 4-year secondary education with a focus on applied and integrated learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Aesthetics and Mathematics (STEAM) for youths aged 13-16. Established in 2010, SST’s mission is to nurture passionate innovators who apply knowledge of science and technology, guided by the spirit of humanities for a better world.

As a School of Innovation by Design, SST embraces a holistic educational philosophy that emphasises discovery, exploration, and experimentation. This approach empowers students to be curious about their

learning, connect academic knowledge and skills to real-world situations, and reflect on the interconnections across disciplines. With this underpinning knowledge and skills, students are motivated to solve problems with the goal of making improvements and having a positive impact on society.

In 2023, SST in partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic, launched a new pathway – the SST-NP Integrated Diploma Programme (IDP) to allow students to progress directly to one of the 21 STEM-related courses in NP. This added pathway alongside the existing O Level programme, enriches the SST learning experience, fosters partnership with community and industry partners, and better prepares SST students to be future-ready.

Annex 1:

Guest lecturers of the SMU-SST Technopreneurship Programme:

- **Benjamin Wong**
CEO & Co-Founder of Kinobi; SMU Alumnus; and one of 2022 Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honourees
- **Derrick Lee**
CTO & Co-Founder of Accredify; SMU Alumnus; and one of 2022 Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honourees
- **Karen Cheah**
CEO & Founder of AlterPacks; Chief Product & Creative Strategist of Muse Org; and SMU Alumna
- **Ng Yi Ming**
CEO of Tribe and CEO of StackUp; and one of 2020 Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honourees
- **Quah Zheng Wei**
CEO & Co-Founder of Accredify; and one of 2022 Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honourees
