

Joint Press Release

More Employers Ready to Support Persons with Disabilities from Polytechnics

Singapore, 1 June 2022 – More employers are ready to provide learning opportunities for polytechnic graduates with disabilities and special needs. The second year of the Talent Accelerator Programme (TAP), which helps persons with disabilities and special needs transit from school to work, sees more than 10 well-known corporate brands participating in the training programme.

The **Talent Accelerator Programme (TAP)** organised jointly by **Temasek Polytechnic** and **TomoWork Ltd.**, attracted **19 participants from all five polytechnics** in Singapore. All of them, **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** and individuals who have **Special Educational Needs (SEN)** spent **12 weeks** working with leading corporations like **foodpanda, Sembcorp Industries** and **Unilever**, on accelerated career preparation opportunities.

The TAP provides an accelerated career preparation opportunity in an inclusive learning environment where PWDs and SEN participants learn critical soft skills, career skills & technical skills to prepare them for jobs of the future.

Participants also underwent industry talks, skills training, and three mentoring sessions with industry professionals from **Amazon Web Services, Barclays, Bloomberg, Google, LinkedIn, Meta, Microsoft, Rasmussen, Tableau**, and **VMware**, to develop a greater perspective of the workforce and better career planning.

The students also worked on 'live' briefs from industry, providing solutions to business challenges presented by their corporate sponsors.

Ms. Gwendolyn Loh, Vice President, Group Sustainability, Sembcorp Industries said, "It was exciting to see this team of young students come together to tackle the business challenge we presented them with. We were energised by their fresh ideas and eagerness to contribute to a sustainable future. The next generation of sustainability leaders depends on the youth of today, and we are appreciative of TomoWork's invitation to come on board for this partnership."

Mr. Peter Lam, Principal and CEO of Temasek Polytechnic, said, "This is the second time that TP is partnering with TomoWork in the Talent Accelerator Programme (TAP). We are very happy with this partnership as it promotes greater inclusivity in the workplace and provides real-world learning opportunities for our SEN students to help them achieve their aspirations. We are also heartened to see strong industry response and support for the programme. By working together, we can create new and exciting employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and special needs, and create a better future for all."

Mr. Mike Momota, CEO of TomoWork, said, "We are delighted to end TAP with many great collaborations with Temasek Polytechnic and corporate partners. We saw exciting outcomes from our programme. We realized once again and are more confident that we can create employment opportunities for PWDs in Singapore by training the right skills through our unique programme."

One of the participants, **Mr. Xavier Chung Jing, a recent graduate from Republic Polytechnic who has autism**, said: “I want to get a job after completing TAP. In addition to acquiring fundamental knowledge such as digital skills, TAP also provided opportunities to develop soft skills such as how to write a CV and how to make a presentation which enhanced my employability. These learnings developed my confidence, and I hope to make full use of it in my future employment.”.

Mr. Eric Chua, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth was guest of honour at Demo Day, which is the final day of the TAP, where both participants and their corporate sponsors shared about their projects and learning experience. Held on **Wednesday, 1 June**, at Auditorium 3 of Temasek Polytechnic, the event attracted some 100 people.

Joining in live from Japan, was **Mr. Toru Shiomitsu, Managing Executive Officer of Sumitomo Life Insurance Company** one of the largest life insurance companies in Japan, and a donor of TomoWork Ltd.

- The End -

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About Temasek Polytechnic

Established in 1990, TP is one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Currently, it offers 36 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 40 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment. The polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These ensure that TP graduates are ready for work or further studies, and to contribute meaningfully to the community. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg

About TomoWork

TomoWork initially commenced in late 2019 as a corporate disability inclusion initiative. Since then, we have continued designing and delivering high-impact programmes for the PWD and SEN communities. As a result, the number of our graduates has surpassed 100. To achieve equitable employment opportunities for all, we partner directly with the corporate partners to curate programmes that will equip our participants with the relevant skillset and help them to increase their employability. In 2021, TomoWork registered as a not-for-profit organisation in Singapore to deepen our impact on the PWD and SEN communities. For more information, please visit <https://tomowork.org>.

Annex 1 - Additional Quotes

Ms. Lynette Pathy, Lead, Organisation and People Development APAC of foodpanda, said “The TomoWork Talent Accelerator Programme (TAP) students have displayed excellent work attitude and tremendous enthusiasm for the project. They were analytical in problem-solving and proposed many creative ideas to make foodpanda an inclusive platform for everyone. Special thanks to TomoWork for the well-organised programme and for making this possible.”

Mr. Ramanathan Vythilingam, Senior Manager of Consumer Market Insights of Unilever Asia, said, “I really appreciated the collaboration with TomoWork for the project in 2022. I found the whole experience of working with the students an incredibly enriching experience for me personally. The students all had a strong focus on doing well, and they had a clear plan on how to approach the question. They really leaned in. Many thanks to the TomoWork team for guiding and supporting the students. It was a true partnership that resulted in unlocking key learnings for Unilever.”

Ms. Adelle Tan Xuan Yun, a graduating student from Temasek Polytechnic, said, “I joined TAP because I wanted to learn how to apply the design skills I have learned so far to the business when I join the workforce. I am convinced that learning at TAP will be very important in my future life.”