

HORIZONS



MDIS CELEBRATES SINGAPORE 50TH BIRTHDAY

MDIS EXPANDS FOOTPRINT INTO INDIA



MDIS RECEIVES S-CLASS CERTIFICATION



MDIS CELEBRATES SG50 WITH SENIOR CITIZENS



VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR 2015

5 Oct - 9 Oct
9am - 6pm

Transcend the Boundaries
of Your Future

REGISTER NOW!

 www.mdis.edu.sg/cau  www.facebook.com/mdis.cau

 cau@mdis.edu.sg  6796 7816 or 6796 7831



Editor's Note

On 22nd July, MDIS formally announced its joint-venture with VELS Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies to set up MDIS-VELS Education Private Limited in Chennai, India. This marks MDIS' third overseas campus, the first being in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the second in Educity Iskandar, Malaysia. We are very pleased to be working with VELS, and are confident that this collaboration will help to attract students into both the VELS and MDIS family.

MDIS also received its S-Class Certification from the SPRING Singapore, recognising the Institute's achievement of business excellence in service standards. This was the result of more than two years of hard work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every staff member who has contributed to this achievement.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of Horizons!

Tan Gek Kluin



“

Know yourself, you
are unique, priceless
and a gift to this
world.

- Apoorve Dubey

EDITOR

TAN GEK KHIM, PBM

STAFF WRITER

TERENCE LEONG

ADVISORS

DR ERIC KUAN

DR R THEYVENDRAN, PBM

ROGER THAM

CONTRIBUTORS

James Lee

Jesline Wong

Wida Alisa

Tan Zhi Hong

Khushrav Bhada

Harry Teo Zhi Xiong

Ramnika Patheja

Vandana Vaswani

Lily Li Xin

Tay Wanpin

George Low

Lewis Chen

Toh Yuet Wei



Management Development Institute of Singapore
Reg. No. 201001793H
20 May 2014 to 19 May 2018

A member of the Singapore Association for Private Education (SAPE)

Horizons is the official bi-monthly publication of the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS).
For contributions in the Special Features or other sections, please email comms@mdis.edu.sg.
Editorial material does not necessarily reflect the views of MDIS. Information is accurate at time
of printing. Copyright ©2015 Management Development Institute of Singapore.

No portion of this magazine may be reproduced or printed in any form without prior written consent from MDIS.

Horizons is printed by Stamford Press Pte Ltd.

MDIS Campus

501 Stirling Road Singapore 148951
Tel: (65) 6278 8000 Fax: (65) 6278 5312

MDIS Dhoby Ghaut

20 Orchard Road Singapore 238830
Tel: (65) 6372 1000 Fax: (65) 6338 1048
www.mdis.edu.sg | email: mdis@mdis.edu.sg

NEWS SCOPE



04 / MDIS Expands Footprint into India

06 / MDIS Receives S-Class Certification

07 / MDIS-Jalan Kayu Heartstrings 2015

08 / Iftar at Mujahidin Mosque



MDIS Expands Footprint into India



MDIS has entered into a joint-venture with the VELS Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VELS) University in Chennai, India. The agreement – inked on 22nd July by Dr R Theyvendran, Secretary-General of MDIS, and Dr Ishari K Ganesh, Founder and Chancellor of VELS University in India – marks the beginning of MDIS’ third overseas campus, the first two being MDIS Tashkent in Uzbekistan and MDIS Malaysia at EduCity Iskandar, Malaysia.

The total investment for the joint venture is expected to be approximately S\$10 million. The first student intake is scheduled for October 2015, and students will be able to pursue a variety of programmes ranging from Diploma to Master Degrees in the fields of business and management. More programmes will be gradually added to encompass the fields of Hospitality, Tourism, Information Technology and Mass Communication from 2016 onwards.

As part of the programme, students will be required to complete their semesters in both Singapore and India campuses. For the time being, MDIS India will operate out of the VELS University premises. Construction for the new campus in Chennai, an estimated 70,000sqft, will begin in July 2016.

Dr R Theyvendran, the Secretary-General of MDIS said, **“Singapore’s education has a stellar reputation not just in the region, but globally. There is demand from students from around the world to pursue programmes with the Singapore brand: something evident from the vast number of countries that students at MDIS in Singapore come from. Our existing two overseas campuses, MDIS Tashkent and MDIS Malaysia, are doing well, and they stand as a good testament to the strength of Singapore’s brand of education. This is why we are taking bold steps and investing in this third overseas campus in India. We hope to fly the Singapore name high in these markets.”**



VELS Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VELS) University in Chennai, India



At the media briefing, Dr Ganesh, founder and chancellor of VELS University said that he was pleased to partner MDIS and added, **“The joint venture is definitely going to be a successful one.”**

MDIS’ footprint into India is yet another milestone in transcending borders and expanding globally.

“The joint venture is definitely going to be a successful one.”

- Founder and Chancellor of VELS University, Dr Ganesh

EXPANDING THE BRAND GLOBALLY

MDIS Tashkent



Uzbekistan Banking Association under a special resolution granted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. With the growing demand, MDIS Tashkent is embarking on plans to expand its Tashkent campus, and sites for expansion are currently being explored.

Since its establishment in 2008, the student population at MDIS Tashkent has grown from just 275 to over 2,200 students today. MDIS Tashkent is MDIS’ first overseas campus and is a joint venture between MDIS and

MDIS Malaysia

MDIS’ second overseas campus, MDIS Malaysia at EduCity Iskandar, is slated to begin operations at its new campus in 2016 when the first phase of construction is completed.

Facilities such as two student hostel blocks, main building, administrative building, a multi-purpose hall and a soccer cum cricket stadium will be ready during this phase and will be able to support up to 2,000 students. MDIS is also planning to expand our portfolio of offerings to include degree programmes in 2016.



MDIS *Receives* S-Class Certification

When MDIS first embarked upon its Student Experience Study in 2013, the main goal was to find out exactly what it was that MDIS' students wanted out of their experience, and to also find out what the Institute can do to meet their expectations. More than 1300 students and alumni responded to the online survey, and in February 2014, a team of 15 MDIS staff members were appointed to oversee MDIS' progress towards meeting said needs.

In addition to interviewing staff and students to find out how the Institute can improve its service standards, each MDIS staff member also underwent a half-day workshop where they learnt about customer-centric initiatives and how they can do their part to ENRICH the student's learning experience.



- E** – Engage with passion
- N** – Notice unspoken needs
- R** – Responsive and innovative
- I** – Inspire learning
- C** – Commit to excellence
- H** – Happy to serve

SINGAPORE
**SERVICE
CLASS**

After several months of hard work, the Institute is proud to announce that, in recognition of its efforts at achieving what is known as “Business Excellence Niche Service Standard” – meaning that an organisation's customer service is amongst the best in its industry – SPRING Singapore has awarded MDIS with Service Class Certification!

Congratulations, and well done everybody!

MDIS-Jalan Kayu Heartstrings 2015

As part of its corporate and social responsibility efforts, MDIS gave out S\$30,000 worth of groceries and vouchers to 150 needy families during the annual Jalan Kayu Family Day. Presided by guest-of-honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, each family received S\$30 worth of groceries and S\$170 worth of supermarket vouchers.

This marks the sixth year that MDIS has worked with the Jalan Kayu constituency. Till date, the Institute has given out more than S\$150,000 to participants of the Jalan Kayu Heartstings Programme.



“We hope that this programme will lessen the burden of the needy in the Jalan Kayu constituency. We are a strong believer in helping those in need, to give them a leg up in life. We are not just committed in ensuring the well-being of our students, but to the society at large. Over the years, we have given out bursaries, scholarships and donations to deserving individuals and causes. Our students and colleagues have also donated their time to bring cheer to the less fortunate,” said Dr. R. Theyvendran, Secretary-General of MDIS.

Iftar at Mujahidin Mosque

On 22nd June, staff from MDIS were invited to join Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and 800 Muslims and non-Muslims in breaking fast at the Mujahidin Mosque. Located opposite the MDIS Campus along Stirling Road, the Mujahidin Mosque was officially opened in 1977 and is one of the Queenstown district's many distinctive landmarks.

Iftar, or the ritual act of breaking fast at sundown during the fasting month of Ramadan, is an important community activity for the Muslim community. The meal attended by the Deputy Prime Minister was one of many that the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) had organised all around the island, and MDIS was honoured to have been part of the event.

"I'm very happy to see that Masjid Mujahidin has been very active in its youth outreach activities," Mr Teo said in an interview with Channel NewsAsia. "It's been very active in the community as well as with many community groups of all races and religions. I wish all our Muslim friends selamat ber puasa (happy fasting)."

“

I'm very happy to see that Masjid Mujahidin has been very active in its youth outreach activities. It's been very active in the community as well as with many community groups of all races and religions. I wish all our Muslim friends selamat ber puasa (happy fasting).

- Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean



LEARNING



10 / Job Hunting Advisory

14 / Sushi-Making Workshop

15 / Visit by Mr Gilbert Tan, CEO of e2i



16 / ISIS & Its Global Network



Job Hunting Advisory

The co-founder of Apple Inc, Steve Jobs, once advised graduates that the best way to do a great job is to love it. Clichéd as it may sound, Mr Jobs’ advice is still very applicable today; especially in today’s professional and economic climate, where you have students graduating with degrees but no idea what sort of careers await them.

Finding a job you love has never been more important, but it has also never been more difficult. But worry not! We at the MDIS Business Club have gone out and interviewed five working professionals to find out more about their jobs and what it is that they really do on a day-to-day basis.

► Real Estate Associate

Description:

Act as an intermediary between buyers and sellers of real estate of all kinds. Responsibilities include attending to sales enquiries, performing after-sales services, and performing market research.



Requirements:

- Must be a Singaporean/ Singapore PR
- 21 years old & above
- Possess 4 GCE ‘O’ Level passes
- Council for Estate Agent (CEA) License
- Car for commuting & meeting clients
- Starting Salary: Commission based; agents earned an average of S\$12,767/month in 2014, but the top 5% of agents (known as “super agents”) have been known to earn more than S\$100,000 per month.

The following is from a Real Estate Associate in one of Singapore’s largest real-estate brokerages:

“I’ve always enjoyed both viewing houses and interacting with people from all walks of life ever since I was young, so being a Real Estate Associate seemed like a natural fit for me. I knew that the job was going to be challenging and competitive, but I’ve always been someone who thrived on challenge.

“My daily work day starts with me reading the daily papers and updating myself on new listings within my specialised

Geographical Targeted Area, or GTA. Being familiar with current affairs and policy changes is also very important as they often greatly influence a client’s plans and decisions, and keeping myself up-to-date on such matters is often invaluable.

“My work can be thought of as a cycle of prospecting, arranging appointments, arranging for listing presentations, sales, negotiations, closing and after-sales follow-up. Each step is vital, and if you have good communication and interpersonal skills, you will gradually build up a large potential client base. The ability and willingness to work during weekends and public holidays is also crucial if one wants to be successful in this field.

“As your income is mainly commission-based, there is always the chance that you may not earn enough to maintain your lifestyle during a recession. Of course, this is balanced by the fact that you will likely earn enough to make up for those lean periods during property booms, but if you do not have the stomach for a volatile source of income, you should probably not enter this field.



“Although many people think that Real-Estate Associates have a lot of freedom, the reality is far from that. Between the research, market analysis, behind-the-scene preparations and the maintenance of client relationships, you will probably not end up with a lot of free time to yourself. However, if you’re a disciplined, self-motivated and positive individual with an appetite for risk, this can be a great job for you. For me, I love my job so much that it doesn’t even feel like a job at all!



Auditor

Description:

Collect and analyse data on a company to detect fraud, deficient controls, breaches of regulation and overall failure to comply with management policy.

Requirements:

- 21 years old & above
- At least 3 years of audit experience
- Degree or professional qualification recognised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accounts (ISCA)
- Starting Salary: S\$3,000 - S\$4,000 per month

The following is from an Auditor working in one of Singapore’s leading audit firms:

“Although I had wanted to specialise in Taxation originally, in my final year of my Bachelor’s Degree in Accountancy, a couple of international accounting firms came by my school to interview the students. It was then that I learnt about auditing, and after interning at one such accounting firm, I grew increasingly interested in the field.

“An auditor will be exposed to a wide variety of businesses and industries ranging from banking and finance to trading, property development, investment management and so on. With such a varied job scope, auditors must be familiar with all styles and types of accounting and taxation practices.

“A typical work day for me may begin with me training, coaching, managing and mentoring staff. I may also be required to review work performed by some of my other colleagues, and may have to communicate and advise clients, regulators, associates and other service providers. Whatever free time I may have will usually be spent on keeping myself updated on the latest commercial, legal and accountancy news and changes: information which I will, in turn, have to pass on to my clients through the creation of reports and advisory material.



“The thing I love most about my job is the feeling of job satisfaction I get at the end of the day. Through auditing, I am able to provide my clients with a value-added solution to issues, and I enjoy being able to use my skills to identify and solve potential problems before they grow out of control.

“For fresh graduates considering a career in auditing, the most important thing you must have is a goal for your life. That goal can be almost anything, but once you have identified that goal, you can then take the necessary steps towards achieving said goal.”



Human Resource Executive/Manager

Description:

Work with various department managers in the implementation of policies and procedures. HR Executives and Managers are also expected to promote equality and diversity within the organisation, and are sometimes called upon to advise upon policy changes.

Requirements:

- 21 years old & above
- Minimum 2 years of work experience
- Strong Communication and Interpersonal skills
- Proficient in MS Office and SAP
- Degree/Diploma in Human Resource Management/ Business Studies or equivalent
- Starting Salary: S\$5,000 to S\$8,500 per month

The following is from a Vice-President of Human Resources:

“I’ve been in Human Resources (HR) all my life, starting from when I did my Master’s Degree a long while back in Personnel Management. I’ve stayed so long in this field because I’ve always felt that HR was the best area where I could pursue a career in management while still being actively responsible for people and policies.

“Although I work and operate out of Singapore, I am currently responsible for the company’s HR

needs across the globe. As such, I often receive a large number of emails every day, often at odd hours when I am not at work, and must spend most of morning dealing with my email inbox. There are breaks in between, of course, such as when I need to have a meeting with a business leader or my team, but just staying on top of my email inbox can sometimes take up my entire work day.

“Take for instance the time when I was transferred to China for three years and tasked with growing our company’s market share in the world’s largest mobile device market. Together with the Business Head and a few key colleagues, after two years of dedication and hard work, we managed to double our market share and make the company a leader in the Chinese market.

“HR is definitely not for everyone. If you do not have a strong desire to help people become the best they can be; if you are unable to deliver business results in an increasingly competitive, volatile and unstable environment; if you do not have a good understanding of human psychology, law and economics; then HR is not for you. But if you do? Welcome aboard.”

► Knowledge Services Manager

Description:

Manage the operations and activities of a company’s knowledge needs. A Knowledge Services Manager may also be required to manage the budget for the company’s library, develop standards for collection development and cost recoveries, and oversee the company’s general knowledge collection and acquisition policies.



Requirements:

- Advanced degree (JD, MBA, MLIS) preferred
- At least three years of experience in database and web technology
- At least three years of supervisory experience
- At least three years of experience in library contract and vendor management
- Starting Salary: S\$3,000 - S\$4,000 per month

The following is from a Knowledge Services Manager working in Singapore:

“As a graduate of Management Studies, I began my career by first working as a researcher before joining a consulting firm as an industry analyst. I later moved into the field of people management, where I began specialising in knowledge services.

“In my current position, I manage a team of approximately 20 industry experts responsible for collecting knowledge and information on ASEAN. Additionally, I am also responsible for the budgeting and overall business development of my team.

“The actual work I do varies greatly from day to day. On some days, I might be tasked with urgently delivering a vital piece of information to the firm’s consultants out in the field. On some other days, I might be asked to conduct extensive research to be used to inform policy and other long-term corporate decisions. The job scope varies widely, and you never really know what might be waiting for you tomorrow.

“The main difference between information and knowledge lies in application: the former is simple data that is oftentimes meaningless and useless, whereas the latter is material that is instantly actionable and useful. A good Knowledge

Services Manager must therefore not only be a researcher capable of searching out the desired information, but also an excellent communicator who can package and deliver the information in a way that allows it to be immediately useful.

“Fresh graduates considering a career in Knowledge Services must be passionate about learning and interested in becoming an expert in a particular field. If you have no interest or love for news, current affairs and generally keeping yourself up-to-date on advances in your chosen field, this job is definitely not for you. If you have the passion, though, Knowledge Services can be a most rewarding and fulfilling career.”

Personal Banker ◀

Description:

Act as a financial advisor for clients whilst managing their financial portfolio and ensuring that everything complies with banking regulations and internal policies. A good Personal Banker must understand his/her clients’ needs and provide them with the necessary information and advice to make informed decisions about their financial health.

Requirements:

- Singaporean/Singapore PR
- A degree/ diploma in any discipline from a recognized tertiary institution
- Flexible working hours
- Enjoy building relationships
- Have an up-to-date understanding of the financial market
- Able to cope with pressures and setbacks
- Starting Salary: S\$2,700 per month before commissions, but a young Personal Banker can potentially earn up to S\$80,000 per month by consistently hitting his/her sales targets.

The following is from a Personal Banker in one of Singapore's most reputable banks:

"As a veteran in the financial industry for almost 30 years, my dad was more or less responsible for me joining the banking sector. He had always highlighted the importance of saving and creating wealth for others, and I think he always dreamt of me following in his footsteps.

"As a banker, most of my time is spent serving customer enquiries, reviewing their financial portfolios, and following up on their requests. I also spend a significant portion of my day keeping myself up-to-date on the latest global issues and researching on how these issues may impact my clients' portfolios, that I may be better able to advise my customers on the steps they can take to improve their financial health.

"I feel that fully understanding your clients' needs is perhaps the most important thing about being a personal banker. Even when the market is not performing well, as long as you have established a good relationship with your clients, they will stick

with you through thick and thin. Some customers can of course be very demanding, and there are certainly days in which I feel utterly demoralised; but, just like economic downturns and bearish markets, these things too shall pass.

"This career path is a very challenging one, especially at the onset, when you have not yet established a strong network of contacts and clients. However, if you feel that you are a good communicator, have a good understanding of the economy, and thrive under pressure, then this job may just be the job for you."



Preparing for a job interview:

Do research on the company and job opportunity.

Instead of sending out "one-size-fits-all" resumes and mass-sending it to companies, you should always tailor your resume to each job opening you are applying to.



Prepare model answers to standard interview questions.

We're not exactly asking you to memorise your responses, but you should at the very least be prepared for some of the more common questions – such as "tell me about a time where you resolved a conflict with your interpersonal skills" – so that you will be able to respond in a calm and confident manner.

Dress to kill.

You'll never get a second chance to make a first impression, so make sure that your first impression counts! From the moment you walk into a room, your attire is the first thing anybody will notice about you, so make sure it is appropriate and professional.

Be at the right place at the right time.

Short of a natural disaster, there is absolutely no excuse for being late to an interview. If you're not familiar with where the company may be conducting the interview, take a day off to travel to the location and plan your route ahead. If possible, try to arrive at least 15 minutes early so you'll have some time to relax and get used to the environment.



Smile!

Remember that, just like you, your interviewers are only human. A smile will not only put them more at ease, it will also slowly relax you and make you appear that much more approachable.





Sushi-Making Workshop



On 20th June, 30 MDIS students and members of the public attended the Institute's second sushi-making workshop. Held at Hei Sushi at the Sake Sushi Building along Tai Seng Street, the workshop was conducted by one of the restaurant's chefs.

Participants got a chance to not just watch a master Japanese chef make three different types of sushi – handroll, gunkan and maki – but also got to try making some themselves! “I’m looking forward to more such cooking classes organised by the Membership department”, said participant Kelly Jazlyn.



Visit by Mr Gilbert Tan, CEO of e2i

On 13th July, MDIS hosted Chief Executive Officer of e2i, Mr Gilbert Tan, and his colleagues, Assistant Director of Training and Development Ms Giovene Ong and Head of Service Centre Mr Lam Kheng Chong. The guests were shown around the campus and introduced to the school's many facilities, and Mr Tan expressed his admiration for Tropical Breeze, the School of Tourism and Hospitality's training centre.

At the end of his visit, Mr Tan penned the following words in the guest book: "Keep up the good work in building a new generation of workforce & leaders for our industries."

We would like to thank Mr Tan and his colleagues for their time, and look forward to their continued support.

“

Keep up the good work in building a new generation of workforce & leaders for our industries.

- e2i Chief Executive Officer,
Mr Gilbert Tan



ISIS & Its Global Network



Guest Speaker, Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Professor of Security Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University and Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Singapore, delivered the MDIS Breakfast Talk Series – ISIS & Its Global Network on 10th July 2015 at MDIS Campus.



Held at the auditorium of the MDIS Hostel, the talk attracted a turnout of more than 150 participants from various industries, such as, the Singapore Teachers' Union, Union of Security Employees and various other Security firms.

Prof Rohan shared with the participants the origins of ISIS; its intentions, the threats imposed, risks involved and the impact of the threats on Singapore's racial harmony and its social economy. He also shed light on how ISIS used social media as a platform to publicise their agenda.

At the end of the talk, Professor Rohan took time to answer questions from the floor. On the whole, participants found the talk to be very insightful.

CAMPUS BEAT



18 / An MDIS Love Story

20 / MDIS Celebrates SG 50 with Senior Citizens

21 / Nature's Explorer: Pulau Ubin

22 / Team Green Zach's Urban Solutions at Singapore MICE Challenge 2015



An MDIS Love Story

Who would have thought that MDIS, in addition to being an institute for lifelong learning, is also a place where young love can blossom? Meet Tim and Yuliana, a couple of alumni who have just gotten married in an MDIS classroom! Horizons speaks to them to find out more.

What drew you to each other?

T: She's a kind and lovely girl. Although she may be shy, her character is what I like the most about her: and the more I got to know her, the more things I found I liked about her. Like, for instance, how she's a filial daughter, and how she's always so caring to the people around her. She's like an angel to me!

Y: The two things that I noticed first about Tim were his banana pants and his "parrot" hairstyle! I did not have a good first impression of him, since I don't really like guys who are very "loud", but as time passed, I grew to fall in love with him. I learnt that he's actually a very thoughtful man, and is willing to do crazy things just to make me smile.

Where did you go for your first date?

Y: It was Valentine's Day of 2011 – 14th February – and we watched a Singaporean movie called "*It's a Great, Great World*" at Vivocity together. And now, more than three years later, we're married!

Why did you choose to do your solemnisation ceremony here at MDIS?

T: MDIS was where we first met, and we have a lot of memories here: from the classrooms to the canteen, study room and library, they're all places where we spent a lot of our time together, and so we thought that it would be especially meaningful to hold our solemnisation here.

Y: It was also a great opportunity for us to catch up with many of our ex-classmates, since we haven't seen them for so many years after graduation!

Can you describe the ceremony for us?

T: It took almost six months of planning, but thanks to the help of some MDIS staff, everything went off without a hitch. Our friends came by to help us decorate the classroom, corridor and photo booth, and the entire ceremony was just amazing.

Y: We were also very touched by many of our overseas friends who came all the way from Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and even China just to attend the ceremony.

I would like to thank them for coming, and it was great catching up with all of them. Just being back here, at MDIS, brought back many fond memories for us. It was very nice.

Well, congratulations once more, Tim and Yuliana. Thank you for taking the time to speak with us, and we wish you all the best!



First of all, congratulations on the wedding! Can you tell us a little more about yourselves?

Tim: Hi, my name is Tim, and I'm originally from Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

Yuliana: I'm Yuliana, and I'm originally from Tanjung Pinang, Indonesia.

How did the two of you meet each other?

T: I think it was... early 2011? We were both studying in the same class, and I first noticed her when she was asked to read in front of the class. A couple of days later, I intentionally chose a seat behind her so that I could get to know her better. (laughs)





MDIS *Celebrates* SG50 With Senior Citizens

As part of MDIS' celebration of Singapore's golden jubilee, the Institute offered 30 senior citizens a chance to upgrade their IT skills via a series of complimentary workshops. The first such workshop, entitled "Social Media & You", was held at the MDIS Stirling Road Campus on 15th July.

Focusing mainly on Facebook, the workshop trainer guided the participants through the creation of a Facebook account, basic navigation of the site, and introduced them to some of the more popular features on the platform. The three-hour session was very well-received, and many of the participants expressed their interest in learning more.

As one of the senior citizens said, "the session was good, and we need more courses to upgrade ourselves!" We would like to thank the seniors for participating in this inaugural workshop, and look forward to organising many more such events in the future!





Nature's Explorer: Pulau Ubin



On 27th June, 30 MDIS students visited the lush island of Pulau Ubin to explore the greener side of Singapore. Located about fifteen minutes from the mainland, the island – whose name means “Granite Island” – is home to just 38 people today and is one of the last places in Singapore that has been preserved from urban development.

Accompanied by staff from the Membership Department, the students took a walk through the Chek Jawa wetlands reserve. Unique to the region and quite possibly the world, six habitats and ecosystems come together in Chek Jawa: sandy beach, rocky beach, seagrass lagoon, coral rubble, mangroves and coastal forest. The reserve is specially protected as it is home to several threatened bird species, and the students were able to observe the many visiting and resident birds.

“The trip gave me a look at a very different side of Singapore,” said Aldeno, a Biotechnology student. “After this trip, I now know of another fun place that I can visit when I’m not studying!”



Team Green Zach's **Urban Solutions** at Singapore MICE Challenge 2015



On 3rd July, four students from the School of Tourism and Hospitality formed Team Green Zach and represented MDIS at the Singapore MICE Challenge 2015. Organised by the Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers (SACEOS), the board challenged students all over Singapore to conceptualise, business-test and otherwise develop a business plan for a real-world exhibition or conference.

Choosing to organise a business event in the field of Urban Solutions, Anastasia Vanderflit, Claudia Guerreiro, Viet Phuong Ho and Zheng Shuang Shuang used their training in MICE – Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions – to come up with a 5-minute pitch presentation that addressed the event's overarching concept, relevance to the industry, commercial viability and other assorted business considerations. The team also had to field a 10-minute Q&A session from the panel of judges after their presentation.

However, all their hard work did not go to waste: MDIS is proud to announce that, after months of preparation, Team Green Zach has successfully advanced to the next round of the Challenge! Along with seven other teams, these four students from MDIS and Southern Cross University's Master in International Tourism &



Hotel Management programme will travel to Kuala Lumpur to represent Singapore at the upcoming Asean Economic Community + MICE Expo.

Congratulations to Team Green Zach, and the best of luck to you at the coming expo!

CONNECTIONS



24 / Students' Reflections

26 / Book Reviews

27 / MDC Training Programmes

28 / Membership Activities

29 / Chill Out

Students' Reflections

If I can possess a **super power**,
what would it be ?

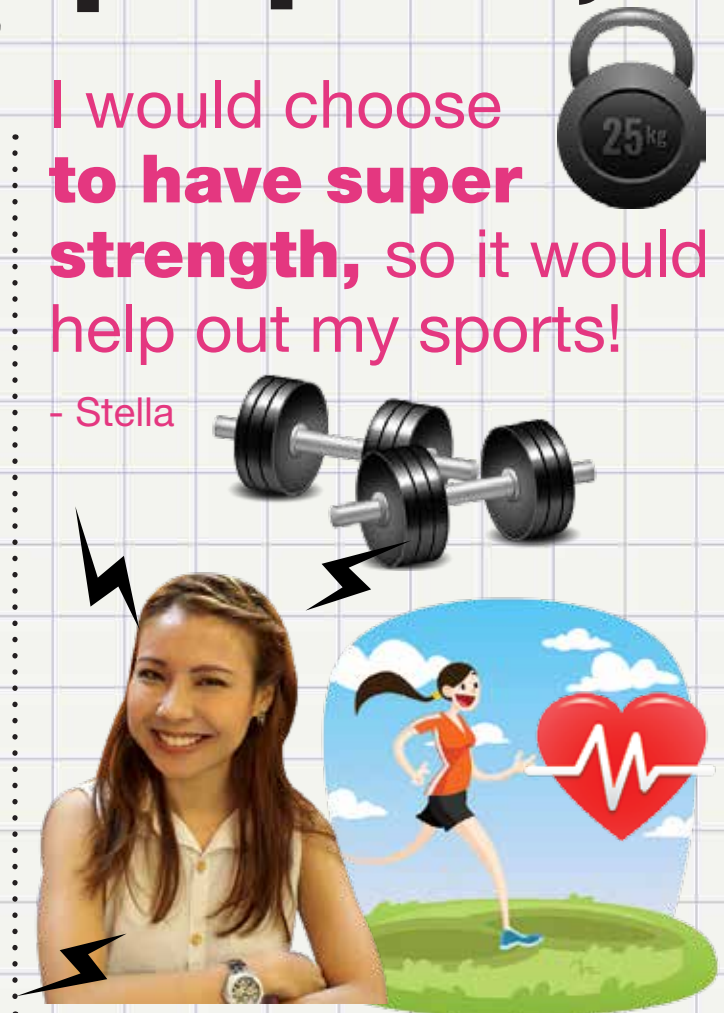


Great knowledge,
so that I can get
through my degree!

- Hema

I would choose
**to have super
strength**, so it would
help out my sports!

- Stella



I've always
been fascinated
by **time
travel**, so I
would definitely
pick that!

- Hugo





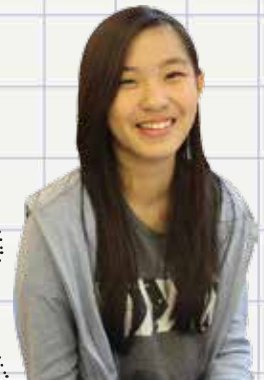
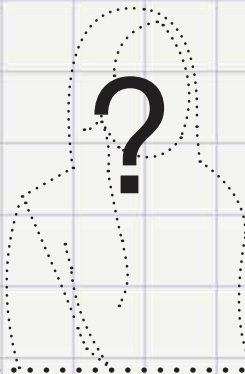
The freedom to fly,
to go anywhere,
would be amazing.
I would go sit on
a cloud!

- Muganti



I would want **to be invisible**, so I can use it to avoid awkward situations...

- Stella



I would like to be able to be in many places at one time.

- Halis





Our Librarian Recommends . . .

Lee Kuan Yew: A Tribute

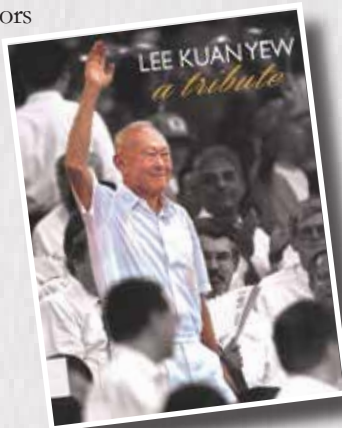
Book of essays, photos on Mr Lee Kuan Yew's life and contributions

The Straits Times Team of Editors
Straits Times Press
2015
Softcover

Featuring essays penned by Mr Lee's former colleagues, friends, family members, and political journalists following his death on March 23, 2015, **Lee Kuan Yew: A Tribute** covers the key milestones of Mr. Lee's life.

Who should read it:

Anyone looking to learn more about Mr. Lee's pivotal role in every facet of Singapore's development.



Good Leaders Ask Great Questions

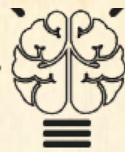
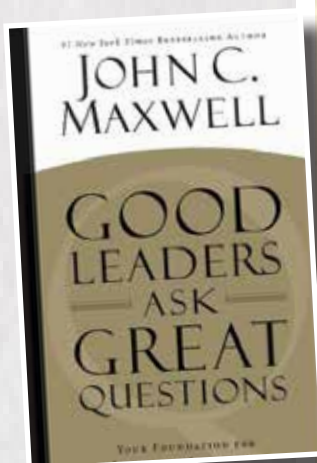
Your Foundation for Successful Leadership

John C. Maxwell
Center Street
2014
Hard Cover

Good Leaders Ask Great Questions seeks to answer the age-old question of what is it exactly that makes a great leader "great". Clear and engaging, the book provides fresh insights into how one can not just improve one's leadership skills, but also how asking the right questions – and actually listening carefully to the answers! – can help propel a company towards success.

Who should read it:

Leaders looking to take their management skills to the next level.



Brainwaves The Bookshop . . .

When Sparks Fly

Dorothy Leonard and Walter Swap

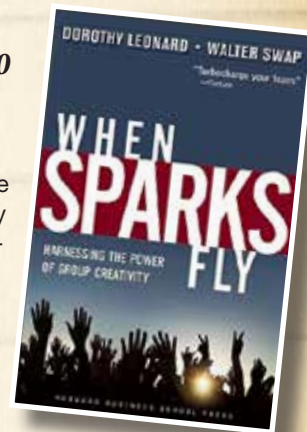
ISBN: 9781591397939

Year: 2005

Member's Price: S\$15.00

Retail Price: S\$25.00

Many managers fall into the trap of assuming that only gifted individuals – the so-called "creative types" – can produce breakthrough thinking. Some even say that creativity is an art that can't possibly be planned or managed without extinguishing the vital creative spark. In this book, however, Leonard and Swap argue that the most innovative, complex and creative products and processes in today's market come from well-led and well-managed group interactions instead of a sole creative maverick.



Click: Ten Truths for Building Extraordinary Relationships

George C. Fraser

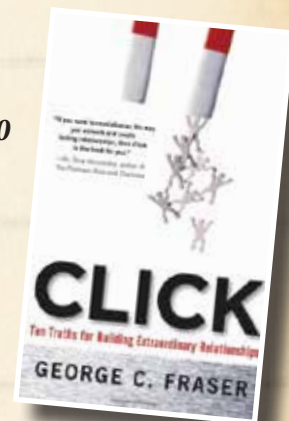
ISBN: 9780071627122

Year: 2009

Member's Price: S\$20.00

Retail Price: S\$29.45

Imagine mastering the skills to create lifelong friendships and powerful and enriching business relationships. This is what awaits you in **Click**: the tools to take networking to the next level and to tap into the richest resource on the planet – other people – no matter how hard it's been for you to do so in the past.



Resource HUB (library)

Block C, Level 4 | 501, Stirling Road | Singapore 148951
Tel: 6796-7828 | Email: resourcehub@mdis.edu.sg

Resource HUB (Brainwaves)

Block B, Level 1 | MDIS Campus
Tel: 6796-7901 | Email: brainwaves@mdis.edu.sg



Maximise Your Potential

flexible solutions that meet your needs

A holistic approach that delivers **interactive** and **strategy-focused Customised Programmes** that create high performance individuals through training solutions that ensure personal success.

Business Management

Inventory and Warehouse Applications to Optimise Company's Performance	21 - 22 Sep
Business Process Reengineering (BPR) for Competitive Advantage	1 - 2 Oct
Project Management Masterclass	12 - 13 Oct
Effective Secretarial Skills	22 - 23 Oct

Communications - General

Conflict Management Skills	1 Oct
Understanding Behaviour Styles for Improved Relationships	7 Oct
How to Work More Effectively with Others Using the MBTI	12 Oct

Communications - Spoken

Becoming a Polished Presenter	8 - 9 Oct
Customer Care Excellence through Professional Phone Etiquette	15 - 16 Oct

Communications - Written

Basic English Business Writing	5 - 6 Oct
--------------------------------	-----------

Financial Management

Understanding GST Concepts for Businesses	21 - 22 Sep
Understanding Malaysia GST Concepts for Businesses	5 - 6 Oct
Effective Costing, Cash Flow Management and Budgetary Control	6 - 7 Oct
Understanding and Analysing Financial Statements	29 - 30 Oct

HR Development

Managing Difficult Employee Conversations	12 - 13 Oct
Talent Acquisition, Management and Succession Planning	22 - 23 Oct
Train the Technical Trainers	26 - 27 Oct

HR Management

Employee Recruitment and Interview	28 - 29 Sep
Balanced Scorecard for Strategic Transformation of Business	19 - 20 Oct

Marketing

Developing Marketing Plans for Competitive Advantages	7 - 8 Oct
Effective Marketing Strategies for Business Sustainability	19 - 20 Oct
Effective Sponsorship Marketing	27 - 28 Oct

Risk Management

Safeguarding Your Organisation against Fraud	29 - 30 Sep
Module 3A - Basic Derivative Instruments Pricing (Interest Rate and FX Derivatives)	7 - 8 Oct
Module 3B - Advanced Derivative Instruments Pricing (Interest Rate and FX Derivatives)	26 - 27 Oct

Sales

Effective Negotiation Skills	5 - 6 Oct
Advanced Negotiation Masterclass	19 - 20 Oct

**Applicable for Professional Development Workshops except I.T. Short Courses*

August - September 2015

JULY
01
ONWARDS

ZUMBA FITNESS WORKSHOP

Date : Starting from 1 July 2015 (Every Wednesday)
Time : 7pm to 8pm
Venue : MDIS Auditorium, Foyer
Fee : Free

Want to learn Zumba? Come join us at the Zumba Fitness Workshop where you'll get to tone your body while dancing to Latin rhythms!



AUG
28

WINE APPRECIATION NIGHT

Date : 28 August 2015
Time : 7pm to 9:30pm
Venue : MDIS Campus, Tropical Breeze
Fee : S\$12 (Members/Alumni)
S\$20 (Public)

Bonjour! If you like good French wine specially selected by a Michelin three-star sommelier, then you'll love our upcoming Wine Appreciation Night.



SEP
05

SAKE TESTING WORKSHOP

Date : 5 September 2015
Time : 1pm to 2pm
Venue : Sakae Sushi @ Wheelock Place
Fee : S\$25 (Members/Alumni)
S\$30 (Public)

Sake, or Japanese rice wine, is unique in the world. Sure, you may have heard about it, but do you actually understand it? Come take a delicious adventure with us as we explore five different types of sake and try to get a better understanding of one of Japan's most popular exports.



SEP
19

MDIS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB OUTING - MID AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Date : 19 September 2015
Time : 7pm to 9pm
Venue : Chinatown
Fee : Complimentary for Members and Alumni
S\$5 (Public)



For registration and payment of workshop/activity, please proceed to Membership & Alumni Relations Department, Energy HUB, MDIS Hostel, Level 5 or register your interest at events@mdis.edu.sg

For more information:

☎ 6473 5885 ✉ events@mdis.edu.sg 🌐 www.mdis.edu.sg/Membership/interest-groups

Chill Out!

Flash your MDIS membership card now at the following merchants to enjoy these exclusive benefits! For more details, visit our website at www.mdis.edu.sg/membership/treats.php



FASHION



10% off all items

Enter discount code MDIS10 upon checkout

Website: www.mylittlebow.com

***Terms and Conditions apply*

LIFESTYLE

ZALORA

15% off storewide

no minimum purchase required

Enter discount code ZALMDIS15 upon checkout

Website: www.zalora.sg

***Terms and Conditions apply*

LIFESTYLE



20% off storage fees

Coupon Code: MDIS

Website: www.spaceship.com.sg

***Terms and Conditions apply*

TRAVEL AND LEISURE



Standard Room:

SGD120++ per room night

Executive Room:

SGD140++ per room night

Moonlight Suite:

SGD388++ per room night

Room Rate inclusive of Complimentary In room minibar and evening beverages from 5pm to 7pm at lobby, daily breakfast and unlimited WIFI internet access

***Terms and Conditions apply*

WINE AND DINE



20% off total bill

Valid at The Star Vista and The Cathay outlet

Website: www.cocoacolony.com

***Terms and Conditions apply*

**** For more discounts and privileges, please visit our website at <http://www.mdis.edu.sg/membership/membership-benefits/treats>
** All promotional offers are subject to availability and may be changed or withdrawn at any time**

Dear Dr Kuan,

I called to see you several times during my visit last week, but unfortunately, your schedule found you out of office on these occasions. I'm writing to thank you and your team for taking care of the students in the Master in International Business programme. The great care and energy that you put into managing them, and ensuring that they had a high-grade learning experience and environment in Singapore is commendable. Thank you to you and your team!

*Nick Sanders
GGSB MIB Program Director*

Hi Louise!

You may not know me personally but I am in the part-time degree class, and you have been my course coordinator since my full-time diploma. I really appreciate for all your hard work and support as our course coordinator. You have done a lot, like really a lot for us! Thank you for your ever precious time, concern and patience. Handling all of us students isn't an easy task but you did it! All the best for your future endeavors! You will be missed!

*Nur Ashiqin Insyirah
Bachelor of Business in International
Hospitality Management
SCU*

“

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

- John Dewey



Dear Lee Ing,

Thank you so much for all the help and assistance throughout the year. The amount of patience you have showed when dealing with us is commendable. You are a rock star.

*Lodha Shashank
Master of Science in Finance
GGSB*



Sia Hua Lim is patient and willing to explain everything in detail. Her prompt follow-ups have been very helpful and are greatly appreciated.

Kristal Tun
Master of Business Administration
University of Bradford

Good Afternoon Mr Amir!

As the class monitor/representative I would like to say a very big thank you to you for helping us. We appreciate every moment spent with you. The entire module has been fun and exciting, and you never fail to put a smile on our faces. Thanks again and I hope to see you for our Diploma programme.

Afiq Bin Alwi
Professional Certificate in Psychology
MDIS

Hi Mr Koh,

Thank you for teaching me in these four years at MDIS, and for supervising me for my final year project. All the help and advice you have provided me with has been extremely helpful and is greatly appreciated.

Eric Salim Lim

A staff member made your day?

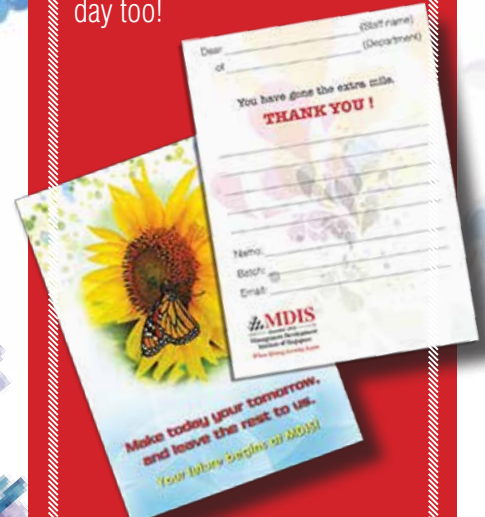
We'll love to hear about it! Find any one of these "Thank You" cards – located all over campus, but particularly around Student Services – and fill them out to make their day too!

Dear Mr Koh Theng Boon,

While it is true that you are strict and tough, I personally think that this is the right way one should approach education! I even go so far as to tell my bosses and my engineers about you and the other good teachers I have here at MDIS.

I just wanted to say thank you for keeping us motivated and for showing us the way. If I should continue to pursue further education at MDIS, I hope to bump into you again!

B. Angelia Seah
Diploma in Engineering
MDIS



MDIS bina kampus luar negara ketiga di India



BERSETUJU BEKERJA SAMA: (Dari kiri) Setiausaha Agung MDIS, Dr. R. Theyrendran, Pengasas dan Canselor Universiti VELS di Chennai, India, Dr. Ishari Ganesh, serta Pengarah Kewangan MDIS, Encik A. Subramaniam, menandatangani persetujuan usaha sama di sidang akhbar semalam. - Foto MOHD KHALID BABA

INSTITUT Pembangunan Pengurusan Singapura (MDIS) telah menandatangani satu persetujuan dengan Institut Sains, Teknologi dan Kajian Lanjutan Vels (VELS) di Chennai, India, untuk membangunkan sebuah kampus di ibu kota negeri Tamil Nadu itu.

Pendaftaran bagi pelajar kampus tersebut akan bermula Oktober ini.

Pembinaan kampus MDIS di Chennai akan bermula Julai tahun depan dan dijangka siap dalam masa setahun.

Ini adalah kampus luar negara ketiga MDIS, menyusuli yang pertama di Tashkent, Uzbekistan, dan kemudian di Iskandar, Johor.

Pengasas, yang juga Canselor Universiti VELS, Dr Ishari Ganesh, dalam sidang media semalam berkata beliau berterima kasih kerana diberi peluang bergabung dengan MDIS.

"Ini kali pertama kami menandatangani satu kerjasama dengan sebuah institut di luar negara. Saya yakin ini akan menjadi suatu kejayaan," ujarnya.

Setiausaha Agung MDIS, Dr R. Theyrendran, pula berkata: "Sistem pendidikan di Singapura mempunyai reputasi cemerlang di seluruh dunia dan inilah salah satu sebab kami melabur dalam kampus ketiga di luar negara di India."

Beliau juga berkata kampus di Uzbekistan dan Malaysia itu terus dikembangkan.

Bilangan pelajar kampus Tashkent telah bertambah daripada 275 orang pada 2008 kepada 2,200 orang sekarang.

Kampus di Iskandar sedang dibina dan fasa satunya akan selesai tahun depan. Ia dijangka boleh menempatkan lebih 2,000 pelajar.

Buat masa ini kampus MDIS di Malaysia terletak di Johor Bahru, dengan 300 pelajar.

சென்னைவில் கால் பதிக்கும் எம்புஜாஸ்; வேல்ஸ் பல்கலையுடன் கூட்டு முயற்சி



சென்னைவில் உள்ள வேல்ஸ் பல்கலைக்கழகத்துடன் இணைந்து சென்னையில் புதிய வளாகம் ஒன்றை எம்புஜாஸ் அமைக்கவிருக்கிறது. புதிய வளாகத்தில் பதினாறு மாணவர்கள் பாடத்திட்டத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியாக சிங்கப்பூர் வளாகத்திலும் சென்னை வளாகத்திலும் பலிசு வேண்டும். கிட்டத்தட்ட \$10 மி. மதிப்பிலான புதிய வளாகத்துக்கான கூட்டு மானப் பணிகள் அடுத்த ஆண்டு ஜூலை மாதம் தொடரும். எம்புஜாஸ் வெளிநாட்டு வளாகம் ஒன்றின் மாதிரியாகப் பாடவாரியும் இடமிருந்து வாய் எம்புஜாஸ் தலைமைச் செயலகம் திரு ஆர். நேவேத்திரன், வேல்ஸ் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் திருவாரூர் வேந்தலுமண டாக்டர் ஜார்ஜ் கமோன், எம்புஜாஸ் நிதி இயக்குநர் திரு கப்பிரமணிமன் அருணாச்சலம், **ப.உ.ம்: எம்புஜாஸ்**

MDIS to open third overseas campus

By Cecilia Ng
cathng@ph.com.sg

Singapore
in a bid to expand its presence in the region. Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) is setting up its third overseas campus in Chennai, India, in a joint venture with Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VELS).

The agreement was inked on Wednesday by MDIS secretary general A Theyyatharan and VELS University founder and chancellor Isaiarai Ganesh.

Founded in 1956, MDIS is Singapore's oldest not-for-profit professional institute for lifelong learning. Its courses are offered in collaboration with several universities from Australia, France, the United King-

dom and the United States. It previously opened its first overseas campus in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2008, and its second in Johor, Malaysia. MDIS Malaysia made MDIS the first private tertiary institution to register to ferry into Malaysia.

MDIS will hold a 51 per cent share in MDIS VELS Education Pte Ltd, with the remainder held by VELS University. The total investment in the joint venture is expected to be \$310 million.

The overseas campus will have its first intake in October, with about 100 students expected to be admitted. Programmes offered include a diploma and masters in the field of business and management, with more programmes being planned for later in 2016, including hospitality and IT.

Some students may also be required to complete their semesters in both the Singapore and India campuses.

Construction of the new campus in Chennai covering an estimated 70,000 square feet is scheduled to begin in July 2016, after which the university will be able to support 1,500 to 2,000 students. Meanwhile, MDIS India will operate out of the VELS University premises.

Said Dr Theyyatharan, "There is demand from students from around the world to pursue programmes with the Singapore brand, evident from the vast number of countries that students at MDIS in Singapore come from."

"Our existing two overseas campuses are doing well, and that is a fur-

ther testament of the Singapore brand. This is the reason why we are taking bold steps and investing in this third overseas campus in India."

MDIS's second overseas campus, MDIS Malaysia, is slated to begin operations on its new campus after the completion of its first phase of construction in 2016. The new campus will be able to support up to 2,000 students.

MDIS Tashkent, MDIS's first overseas campus, is embarking on plans to expand its premises to meet growing demand. The student population has grown from 275 to 2,200 students since its opening in 2008.

Locally, MDIS Singapore - which was gazetted the Singapore Service Class under the SPORC Singapore in



MDIS India is offered in collaboration with several universities from Australia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. FILE PHOTO

June - will continue to expand. It recently launched three new engineering programmes from Northumbria University earlier this year, in acknowledgement of the demand for engineering courses here.

MDIS is also looking to expand fur-

ther into the region in Sri Lanka, in an accord with Wellesley, having previously purchased a plot of land there. However, Dr Theyyatharan emphasised the intention to focus on establishing its existing overseas campuses first.

Source: Lianhe Wanbao © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.



Landed her first job at 60

THAHERA MANZUR, 62
Occupation: Administrative consultant
Company: Big Three Strategies

Growing up in India, Mrs Thahera Manzur stopped schooling at 17 and left the country to see the world with her seafaring husband. "I got married early and became a housewife," said Mrs Manzur.

They settled down in Singapore in 1977, when she was 24, after they had spent two years at sea.

She stayed home, taking care of her only daughter. "I've always felt (it was) unfair that my brothers had higher education. I wanted to study more too... Whenever I travelled, I refused to call myself a 'housewife'. I always filled in 'housemaker' when the immigration cards asked for my occupation... It sounded more professional."

The desire for higher education and a career became stronger after her daughter moved to the United States in 1991 and got married five years later. "I felt lonely," she said. So in February 2012, at the age of 59, the grandmother of one studied for a Diploma in Business Management at the Management Development Institute of Singapore, and landed her first job two years ago.

To prepare for her diploma, she also took classes in 2008 at two private schools. "Statistics and business law were so difficult. I got through with the help of my husband, classmates and teachers," she said.

Mrs Manzur added: "I remember my first day at work. I was so happy and nervous. Happy because I'd wanted a career for so long; nervous because I wasn't



（左）38岁重返校园的张女士在毕业典礼上获颁文凭。（右）张女士（左二）与家人在毕业典礼后合影。（受访者提供）

38岁重返校园·半工半读 瞒着三老读大学 女经理考获金牌

高智信 报道
yuan@ph.com.sg

张女士拥有硕士学位，却在38岁重返校园，攻读学士学位。她瞒着父母和丈夫，在工作的同时，利用业余时间攻读学位。她最终在激烈的竞争中脱颖而出，考获了金牌。

张女士说，她一直渴望接受高等教育，但一直忙于工作和生活。直到最近，她决定给自己一个机会，重新回到课堂。她选择了攻读学士学位，这是一个对她来说全新的挑战。

张女士的丈夫和两个孩子对她的决定感到惊讶。她解释说，她一直是一个热爱学习的人，只是生活让她暂时放下了书本。现在，她终于有机会圆了自己的大学梦。

张女士的故事在社交媒体上引起了广泛讨论。许多人被她的毅力和勇气所感动，认为她是一个真正的榜样。她用实际行动证明了年龄并不是学习的障碍。

公司赞助学费

张女士的学费和生活费得到了公司的全额赞助。公司认为，员工的持续学习和自我提升对公司的发展至关重要。张女士表示，她对公司的支持表示衷心感谢，并将继续努力，为公司做出更大的贡献。

MDIS sets up India campus

The Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS) is headed to Chennai, India, to set up its third overseas campus, it said yesterday.

The campus, which will cost \$10 million to set up, will be a joint venture between MDIS and the Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies (VELS) University in Chennai, a private institution.

The Chennai campus will take in its first batch of at least 100 students in October. The first few batches of students will study in VELS University for the time being.

Source: The New Paper © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reproduced with permission.



You have made the right choice to pursue your studies with MDIS, now make the important decision to finance your education.

With TCC's education loan,
we make your education
dream come true

- Interest rate as low as 2.9% flat per annum
- 100% course fees
- Hassle free loan application
- Flexible repayment term
- Enjoy a wide range of Membership benefits
- Wide range of loan products for other financial needs (personal loan, consolidation loan etc)
- Financial Peace of mind
- Friendly Member Services Officer

For more details on our education loan,
please contact our Education Loan Consultants at

63193700

TCC Credit Co-operative Limited

95 Killiney Rd, Singapore 239537

Tel : 63193700, Fax : 67381977

E-mail : info@tcc.org.sg

Website : www.tcc.org.sg



www.facebook.com/tcc.org.sg
www.twitter.com/tcccreditcoop

The Credit Co-operative with a heart



Terms & conditions apply