Annex A

FACT SHEET

Digital Garage

Background

In April 2017, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information, talked about the need to nurture a digital society, where Singaporeans have access to technology, understand it and are passionate about using it to improve our work processes, our services and help in our everyday lives. This required Singaporeans to develop a curious mind and a passion to tinker and create.

To make this happen, Dr Yaacob unveiled the Digital Maker Programme and how it will work to introduce digital making to both schools and to the community. It will introduce simple-to-use and open-ended technology that students and adults will find easy to adopt.

Digital Garage: An Anchor to Build Community of Digital Makers

Tanjong Pagar Community Club and IMDA have set up a community digital maker space called 'Digital Garage @ Tanjong Pagar Community Club' to cultivate a community of innovators imbued with the culture of collaboration and co-creation, IMDA has been working with partner agencies, like the People's Association to introduce digital making to the community.

Introductory workshops will be offered at community locations for families, students or adults to learn how to use a simple microcontroller known as the micro:bit to create simple projects. The space will offer tools and equipment so that members of the community can build their own creations.

The creation of the Digital Makers Interest Group at Tanjong Pagar Community Club will attract and sustain continuous learning in digital making at the community level. A team of volunteers will also plan and organise various activities to deepen the interest and grow the community and nurture innovations. Activities could include:

- talks with other makers, engineers, technopreneurs
- visits to fabrication labs, maker spaces and maker events, tech companies, institutions of higher learning
- competitions to exercise creativity and address problem statements

Partnerships

The Digital Garage will also be a working collaboration between players involved in Singapore's maker landscape:

- Home-Fix will be providing tools, equipment and furniture that are suitable for community use.

- Microsoft will be providing training to the core team of volunteers to enable them to design and organise activities and workshops customised for Tanjong Pagar's Digital Maker Interest Group.

- Singapore Polytechnic will also be extending their FabLab to the Tanjong Pagar Community Club Digital Makers Interest Group so that the Interest Group can expand their digital making to using more complex technologies and high-end equipment, as well as to tap the deep expertise of the institution.

- NCS Pte Ltd, as part of its CSR initiatives, will provide staff who will be volunteers at the Tanjong Pagar Community Club Digital Makers Interest Group. These volunteers will design and organise activities and workshops for the Interest Group.

Benefits to the Community

By offering venue, facilities, equipment and technical training, individuals with no technical understanding can pick up making skills and learn to tinker with technology as a means to experiment and creatively problem solving.

A dedicated space such as the Digital Garage also functions as a meeting point for like-minded individuals to meet and share ideas with each other, creating a vibrant community of passionate individuals that can collaborate and learn from each other to enhance their making skills and to learn how to develop solutions to personal or community problems.

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