17 November 2017

Fact Sheet: Silver Infocomm Initiative

The Silver Infocomm Initiative (SII) aims to bridge the digital divide among seniors aged 50 and above. This is especially imperative today as Singapore evolves into a Digital Economy and a cohesive digital society.

Launched in November 2007, SII promotes IT awareness and literacy among these seniors so as to empower them to be more digitally ready in a digital society, for a more engaged and connected lifestyle.

More than 150,000 seniors have benefitted from the SII initiative and activities such as the Silver IT Fest, Mass IT Training classes, classes at Silver Infocomm Junctions (SIJs) and Intergen IT Bootcamps.

Appended are details of the various SII activities.

A	**Silver IT Fest** – Annual Mass IT Training Sessions
B	**Silver Infocomm Junctions (SIJs)** – Accessible, Affordable and Customised
C	**Intergen IT Bootcamps** – Fostering Closer Ties Among Generations
D	**Silver Infocomm Wellness Ambassadors (SIWAs)** – Seniors Inspiring Seniors
E	**Friends of Silver Infocomm (FSI)** – Promoting Active Volunteerism

A: Silver IT Fest – Annual Mass IT Training Sessions

The Silver IT Fest is an annual event organised by IMDA, in partnership with Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), industry partners and the community. It has multiple components such as hands-on training workshops, exhibition and seminars to allow seniors to experience technology in different ways. The Silver IT Fest comprises a series of events held in heartland areas, including roving roadshows as well as Mass IT Training sessions.

B: Silver Infocomm Junctions (SIJs) – Accessible, Affordable and Customised

The Silver Infocomm Junctions (SIJs) are senior-friendly infocomm learning hubs appointed by IMDA. SIJs are operated by Voluntary Welfare Organisations, PA's Grassroots' Organisations and/or Non-profit Organisations.

With over 30 SIJs located island-wide, these SIJs offer accessible and affordable infocomm training for seniors through a customised curriculum. The senior-friendly

approach provides step-by-step guidance and seniors can choose to attend classes conducted in English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil.

Classes are available in two tracks, iBEGIN and iLIVE, for seniors to learn basic infocomm usage and digital lifestyle skills respectively. The iBEGIN curriculum equips seniors with basic digital skills such as how to use a computer, surf the Internet, create an email or instant messaging account, make video calls, as well as how to be safe online.

The iLIVE curriculum, comprising intermediate and digital lifestyle topics, is aimed at seniors who already have basic digital skills. Participants will learn how to send email, use social media, edit digital photos and share or store large files online.

For course outlines and locations of SIJs, please visit www.imda.gov.sg/SII

C: Intergen IT Bootcamps – Fostering Closer Ties Among Generations

To foster closer ties between the seniors and their grandchildren, various schools from primary to tertiary levels have been collaborating with IMDA for the Intergen IT Bootcamps. Started in 2010, the Intergen IT Bootcamps help seniors cross the digital divide while bonding with the younger generation.

Since 2015, IMDA partnered North East Community Development Council (NE CDC) and POSB for the North East Eldersurf Intergen Bootcamp to engage and build intergenerational bonding between seniors and students in the North East District.

D: Silver Infocomm Wellness Ambassadors – Seniors Inspiring Seniors

The Silver Infocomm Wellness Ambassadors (SIWAs) are jointly appointed by the IMDA and the People's Association Active Ageing Council (PAAAC).

SIWAs are seniors, aged 50 years old and above, recognised for their active IT lifestyle and their efforts in inspiring and encouraging their peers to use infocomm to enhance their lifestyle, e.g. social networking, blogging and e-banking. The SIWAs come from different backgrounds and nominations can be done online by the individual himself/herself or by another individual.

In 2017, we received a very encouraging response from the community with over 80 quality nominations, of which 31 senior advocates were selected as SIWAs.

Into its sixth year, there is now a total of 163 SIWAs who are active advocates of technology. Together with PA AAC, IMDA will be grooming the first batch of 29 SIWAs through a new Tech Silver Project. The aim is to promote a culture of volunteerism

where these SIWAs are equipped with soft skills and technical skills which will build their competencies to help their peers pick up IT skills.

E: Friends of Silver Infocomm (FSI) – Promoting Active Volunteerism

Friends of Silver Infocomm (FSI) promotes active volunteerism to those who have a passion to help seniors hop onto the digital bandwagon. Volunteers play important roles in ensuring seniors keep up with the trainers during IT workshops and tutorials.

Every year, about 500 adult and student volunteers come forward to support the Silver Infocomm Initiative outreach efforts. IMDA also welcomes organisations from both the private and public sectors to join as Corporate FSI. As a Corporate FSI, these organisations will facilitate as a conduit to encourage their staff to volunteer.

A range of volunteer opportunities will be made available on a regular basis for each FSI to choose from. While there is no minimum commitment for volunteers, each volunteer session typically lasts 3 to 4 hours and each FSI is encouraged to sign up for 2 to 4 sessions a year. FSI will be updated regularly on volunteering opportunities throughout the year.

Individuals including youth, working adults and retirees / corporate staff with the following skills and interests qualify to be an FSI:

- Familiar with using a computer, tablet and smart phone;
- Passion working with seniors; and
- Advocates who promote use of technology to seniors.

For More Information
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