

MEDIA FACT SHEET

“WE HACK CARE!” WORKSHOPS AND “TECH FOR GOOD” FESTIVAL BY ENGINEERING GOOD

Background

Digital readiness requires a whole-of-nation effort and a key principle behind digital readiness is inclusivity amongst all segments of Singapore society. In order to enable more passionate Singaporeans to play a part in spearheading community projects for the community, by the community, and prepare fellow Singaporeans to seize the benefits of a digital future, the Ministry of Communication and Information (MCI) and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) have partnered the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) to create a new focus area under Our Singapore Fund (OSF) to support ground-up initiatives to promote digital readiness.

Engineering Good (EG) is the second organisation to receive funds from Our Singapore Fund for Digital Readiness. Engineering Good is a Singapore-based non-profit organisation that empowers disadvantaged communities by improving their quality of life through sustainable engineering solutions.

“We Hack Care!” Workshops

Engineering Good will be running a year-long series of “We Hack Care!” community workshops to modify assistive technology (AT) for persons with disabilities, where off-the-shelf products and accessories can be adapted and modified to meet the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in a low-cost and effective way.

The “We Hack Care!” workshops bring together people within the community who aspire to learn more about technology, and also want to help disadvantaged members of the community. Workshop participants will apply basic concepts of electrical circuits and technical skills such as soldering, wire stripping, and assembly / disassembly to build solutions such as an accessibility switch from off-the-shelf materials. Products created from these workshops will be donated to voluntary welfare organisations.

Bringing Communities Together for Problem Solving

As part of the publicity leading up to the competition, EG will give talks at schools regarding disabilities, inclusion and specifically how AT and our contributions can play a part in it. These talks will be given in Secondary and Post-Secondary institutions in the months preceding the start of the competition. After the talks, interested students can learn more from the AT showcase as well as registering for the Tech for Good competition.

Public Outreach and Awareness

The “Tech for Good” Festival will have workshops organised for members of the public while the exhibition and judging is going on. Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) are given booths to showcase the technological tools they use with their beneficiaries. At the end of the festival, there will be at least 10 feasible project ideas that can be implemented to support different social causes.

EG is targeting to reach more than 20,000 participants and attendees in total, through the workshops, school talks and festival, as well as mobilising 200 mentors and volunteers to increase the understanding and awareness of the use of technology for good.