

## ANNEX B

### About Digital Enablement Programme (DEP)

#### **MICROSOFT-SPD-SG ENABLE CHAMPION DIGITAL UPSKILLING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

In support of the Digital for Life (DfL) movement, Microsoft Singapore, SPD and SG Enable have come together in a tripartite alliance to drive digital upskilling for persons with disabilities through the Digital Enablement Programme (DEP). The pilot programme which started from October 2021, aims to train 140 persons with disabilities from SPD by March 2023. Microsoft's participation in the programme is also part of its Global Skilling Initiative, which has helped over 30 million jobseekers gain new skills in the digital economy, of which 350,000 come from Singapore.

This is an extension from previous Microsoft engagements to create accessibility for a resilient, digitally inclusive Singapore. In January 2021, Microsoft supported a pilot SPD digital skills training course for job ready persons with disabilities, which has been customised to equip persons with disabilities with essential digital skills for a world of hybrid work. The programme aims to train persons with disabilities through structured on-site and virtual curriculum to improve their job competency and prepare them for future employment.

To date, the first batch of 20 trainees have completed the cumulated 35-hour long training programme since January 2021, of which 11 have found employment. Microsoft has also partnered SG Enable as the local non-profit organisation for its Microsoft APAC Enabler Programme, with an aim to provide persons with disabilities with access to equal employment in tech jobs across Singapore and APAC. The programme also provides Microsoft Cloud & artificial intelligence training for persons with disabilities, accessibility education for employer partners, and inclusive hiring from non-profit organisations supporting persons with disabilities.

The DEP builds on existing Microsoft's efforts to improve accessibility and build digital resilience for persons with disabilities. It aspires to empower persons with disabilities jobseekers with digital skills for the hybrid world of work to enhance their employment opportunities. As part of the programme, job trainees in SPD's Sheltered Workshop will also be equipped with basic digital skills such as using Microsoft Office tools to communicate with family and friends, be educated on cybersecurity and accessing digital services to aid independent living. Both groups will undergo a customised digital literacy curriculum developed by SPD that will also incorporate Microsoft's Digital Literacy content. Course content includes how to access information online and how to participate safely and responsibly online.

As part of the DEP, persons with disabilities trainees who has completed any of Microsoft's six basic digital literacy courses online will receive an e-certificate of completion. To motivate more trainees to join the programme, Microsoft and its partners will also present a specially designed "I am a Digital Champion" T-shirt by SPD, to all SPD's Sheltered Workshop trainees who complete at least 1 of the 6 courses.

To facilitate the delivery of the training workshops, Microsoft has also sponsored Microsoft Surface devices which offer touchscreen functionality, as well as accessibility features to enhance the learning experience for persons with disabilities undergoing training. To build a resilient, digitally inclusive Singapore, Microsoft and SG Enable will continue their strong partnership to advocate for inclusive hiring in its employer networks, support workplace disability inclusion and create job opportunities for more digitally skilled persons with disabilities.