



Singapore Women in Tech signs MOU with five Polytechnics to develop and nurture girls in tech

- *Girls studying infocomm technology at Singapore's five polytechnics will form the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee*
- *The new committee aims to reach over 700 members annually and grow the girls' interest in tech through workshops, hackathons and mentorship opportunities.*

SINGAPORE, 13 May 2022 – The Singapore Women in Tech (SG WiT), driven by the Infocomm Media Development Authority, and the five Polytechnics (Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the launch of the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech (GiT) committee today. The signing of the MOU was witnessed by Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information, Dr Janil Puthuchery and Minister of State for Communications and Information, Mr Tan Kiat How. Both prior to the MOU signing, had joined in an ideation workshop with the GiT committee for a 2-week hackathon in June organised by NCS and vLookup, one of the Cross-Polytechnic GiT events for the year.

The newly formed Cross-Polytechnic GiT Committee is made up of girls studying infocomm technology courses in the five polytechnics. As part of the MOU signed today, the five polytechnics will work with the Cross-Polytechnic GiT to explore collaborations to retain, develop and deepen the interest of girls in polytechnic in a career in the tech industry. This will be done through programmes such as talks, workshops, competitions and mentorship opportunities. SGWIT will support these activities organised by the Cross-Polytechnic GiT with speakers, venues and sponsorship.

One key activity will be the annual 'Girls in Tech Week' in October 2022, in which girls from Institutes of Higher Learning, including those from Institutes of Technical Education, and universities, will be invited to company visits, tech talks and sharing sessions by female tech leaders in October 2022. This aims to inspire the girls to seize the available opportunities and overcome challenges in different tech job roles. Last year's inaugural three -day virtual 'Girls in Tech Week' had attracted over 380 participants, as well as women leaders from 17 participating tech organisations who shared about the tech sector and their personal career experiences and journeys.

Dr Ong Chen Hui, Chairperson of SG Women in Tech and Assistant Executive Chief of BizTech Group, IMDA said, "In Singapore, the proportion of female tech professionals is above the global average, at around four in ten. Yet, we still have much more to do. SG WiT will continue to reach out to girls and women to show them the possibilities of an exciting tech career to ignite their passion and interest in our industry. This collaboration between SG WiT and the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee will create more opportunities for tech

companies to show how girls and women can contribute to the tech ecosystem. We hope to attract and develop more girls and women in tech through these efforts.”

Temasek Polytechnic Principal & CEO, Peter Lam, said, “We welcome the strong support provided by Singapore Women in Tech, industry leaders and the local community to groom and develop the next generation of female tech talents. We are delighted to see many tech companies and leaders taking action to attract, retain and develop talent among female students pursuing ICT courses in the polytechnics. The formation of the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee, along with this partnership with lead agencies and industry partners is an exciting step forward in creating an enabling environment for our female students, as they embark on a rewarding journey in the tech industry.”

President of Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee, Krystal Lim Yun Shi said, “I’m pleased to see the acknowledgement and support being given to the powerful conversations, actions and perspectives that girls can bring to the tech sector. We are excited about this collaboration with SG Women in Tech and industry partners. This further propels the commitment and conviction for more multi-faceted opportunities to nurture tech talent among girls. We look forward to more girls and industry partners joining my team and I in this cause, to create greater vibrancy in the tech scene over the next decade and beyond.”

Since the launch of the SG WiT movement in 2019, the movement has expanded to include more Girls in Tech programmes including recognising girls from schools and institutions of higher education under the “Girls in Tech” category at the 2021 SG100WIT list.

JOINTLY ISSUED BY INFOCOMM MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IMDA), SG WOMEN IN TECH (SGWiT), NANYANG POLYTECHNIC, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic.

About SG Women in Tech (SG WiT)

An initiative by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) in partnership with the tech industry and community, SGWiT aims to attract and develop girls and women for the exciting and dynamic infocomm tech sector in Singapore. SGWiT believes in the value of a diverse workforce, the importance of role models for inspiring interest in tech, and partnerships for a supportive ecosystem for women in tech. For more information, visit www.sgwomenintech.sg.

About Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee

Launched in 2022, the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee (GIT) focuses on inspiring and engaging girls to take up ICT courses and jobs through the following 3 pillars: Talent Attraction, Talent Retainment, and Talent Development.

- Talent Attraction focuses on increasing awareness among girls about the exciting possibilities and contributions of technology to our daily lives, work and the digital economy.
- Talent Retainment focuses on sustaining the interest of girls in the field of technology as they embark on developing their skillsets through learning and training.

- Talent Development focuses on engaging the industry and community in providing mentorship and guidance from female tech role models as they develop their professional skillsets and get ready for the tech industry.

Girls taking an ICT diploma course in any of the five polytechnics will automatically be co-opted as members of the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech Committee.

The Cross-Polytechnic GIT will also collaborate with industry partners in a series of programmes to deepen their tech skills, introduce them to emerging technologies, and provide exposure to tech career opportunities.

The list of industry partners and their programmes can be found in [Annex A](#).

1. Accenture

Through a structured Technology Development programme, Accenture will provide coaching and mentoring for selected polytechnic girls. The one-year programme focuses on several objectives: Skills and Capability Building, Mentorship, Potential Opportunities within Accenture, as well as the opportunity to be involved in Community Outreach projects to advocate for Female in Tech.

2. Cisco

Cisco has always been a big proponent of encouraging girls in polytechnics to enter Singapore's STEM ecosystem. It has been active in advancing dialogue on bridging the gender and digital divide at thought leader industry forums and events. Cisco's flagship corporate social responsibility program, Cisco Networking Academy, has partnered with more than 22 learning institutions in Singapore, including polytechnics, to train and upskill budding female talents with technological know-hows in cybersecurity, networking and programming.

3. Logicalis Singapore

Logicalis Singapore will be providing structured office tours, sharing of technology trends and career coaching in-office for selected polytechnic girls to connect, as well as inspire more girls to join the Tech industry.

The target is to have these sessions thrice a year, at three to four hours each session. Sessions will also include interactive activities and the Logicalis signature "Lunch & Learn" segment. Girls will get to understand more about the types of roles in Logicalis, including technology trends across security, networking, cloud and digital workplace.

4. NCS and Vlookup

NCS in partnership with vLookUp.ai will jointly organise a 2-week hackathon for Girls in Tech in June 2022. Students will work in cross-poly teams, learn and apply technologies such as AI, cybersecurity and analytics to generate innovative proof of concept solutions. Innovative teams stand a chance to win more than \$20,000 worth of prizes including a trip to NCS – Melbourne or Shenzhen Innovation Hub in addition to employment and internship opportunities. Participants will be mentored by industry leaders from NCS and vLookUp.ai.

5. PayPal

PayPal engineers and researchers have been mentoring students who are working on the final projects of the "Empower: AI for Girls" courses since 2020. As part of PayPal's collaboration with the Cross-Polytechnic Girls in Tech, the company will conduct a series of workshops focusing on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity in the Fintech domain.

6. ST Engineering

ST Engineering will be organising a “Tech Innovation Day” for polytechnic girls to gain insights into different emerging technologies that are supporting applications and enabling businesses in multi-disciplines. They will also host sharing sessions with the ST Engineering female leaders, including the SG100 Women in Tech honorees, to inspire the girls.