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SMS TAN KIAT HOW AT THE AISP STUDENT

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

(SVRP) AWARD CEREMONY ON

10 NOVEMBER 2023

AiSP President Johnny Kho

Mr Russell Chan, Principal & CEO of Nanyang

Polytechnic

Parents

Award Winners

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1. A very good evening. I am very happy to join all of you at this Award Ceremony to celebrate with all of you here on the achievements of our Student Volunteers and my heartiest congratulations to the 140 Student Volunteers who will be receiving the Gold, Silver and Bronze and Certificate of Merit later.

2. The Student Volunteer Recognition Programme (SVRP) recognises youth volunteers for their contributions to improving Singapore's cybersecurity. I am heartened to hear that there was a 75% increase in the number of nominations for 2023 when compared to 2022. This is also the first time that we are awarding Secondary School students for the Certificate of Merit. These young minds are the seeds we plant today, and they will grow to become the cybersecurity leaders of tomorrow.

3. This year, we have seen an increase in the number of Gold winners compared to 2022, and

these individuals have dedicated over 4000 hours collectively, averaging 307 hours per person! This is indeed commendable given that you have to juggle school and other responsibilities. I am truly impressed by the dedication and commitment all of you put into volunteering for the ecosystem such as helping out in Celebrate Digital event held in Heartbeat@Bedok earlier this year in June, the Digital for Life Festival from 28 Oct to 12 Nov over 3 weekends at 3 community hubs and also organising Capture The Flag activities for your peers.

Partnership with EC-Council and Wissen

4. This evening, I am pleased to announce that AiSP will be working with EC-Council, an organisation to create information security training and certification programme. It represents a partnership aimed at fortifying the knowledge and skills of our cybersecurity professionals and with this collaboration, EC-Council will be awarding 500 free exam vouchers across all polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) over the next two years. Cybersecurity students are highly encouraged to attain some of the industry recognised certificates during their

study at ITE and Polytechnic as it helps them acquire critical skillsets that is highly needed in their future job roles. It helps them gain better recognition of their cyber security skills and abilities from the potential employers. This initiative is a significant step in bridging the cybersecurity skills gap and preparing students for rewarding careers in this exciting new field.

Collaboration with all the Polys for QISP Certifications

5. In addition, AiSP will also be signing a (MoU) with all the Polys on the QiSP Certification for each Poly to contribute 80 students to be trained in this area and this will makeup of 400 trained personnel to the industry per year for 3 years till 2026 and today, I am happy to witness the signing of Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) MOU which will help to train more Cybersecurity Professionals to meet the demand for such skillsets in the industry and this collaboration exemplifies the commitment to provide students with opportunities to be equipped with the

knowledge and skills needed to excel in the cybersecurity domain.

6. These initiatives represent a significant leap forward for our youth, enabling them to better prepare for the demands of cybersecurity roles and equipping them with essential knowledge and skillsets to facilitate a more seamless transition.

Conclusion

7. Let me just conclude by saying that cyber security is a relatively new field and there are many exciting opportunities for Professionals in this area. There are many advantages that many of you, our Singaporean students in our ecosystem have over many other parts of the world. First, your education system here gives you a very good advantage in terms of basic foundations, in terms of how you think about cyber security, the digital ecosystem and about leveraging the partnerships we have in this ecosystem to propel you in the career. So this is

the first advantage that you have, a very good grounding and education system to prepare you for the industry.

8. The second is that cyber security is not so much about what qualifications that you bring to the table in terms of academic qualifications. These are important, don't get me wrong. Academic qualifications are important, but more important than academic qualifications are really your skills qualification. Can you do the job? And can you do the job tomorrow when the world changes and new threats emerge, and new technologies

come about? AI for example, generative AI, it really changes the entire landscape for cyber security. Not just for the good guys, but also for the bad guys. So can you maintain your skills, sharpen your instincts to face the challenges of tomorrow and in this ecosystem here in Singapore you have academic partners like Nanyang Polytechnic, the many Institutes of Higher Learning, working very closely with industry partners, EC-Council for example, and many other partners to provide opportunities for our Professionals to continue to upgrade and reskill themselves. So, they remain relevant and

much valued for their skill sets and their capabilities. So, the second advantage you have compared to many other ecosystems in the world.

9. And third ecosystem. And I'll say this is also a very fundamental advantage you have as Singapore as an ecosystem is the premium of trust that people give to us. When you say you are from Singapore, your company or you are a cyber security professional from Singapore, there is a certain element of trust given to us compared to many other countries. Why?

Because Singapore has always believed in making sure that we say what we believe in and we do what we say and we keep to our promise in all aspects of our international commitments. And our people have gotten a level of premium in terms of trust. So whether you're a professional in this space, or you're providing services to many other parts of the world, when you say you are from Singapore, there is an element of trust given to you. So build on that, not just in terms of the foundations you have in your school but also the ecosystem enablers for you to continue to upgrade and reskill yourself.

But thirdly, fundamentally, you are also flying our flag high. You are the face of Singapore when you are in the industry where you are interfacing your clients, you are interfacing with your peers around the world. Hold up our standards, be the face of Singapore and know that actually you are trusted because you also carry the Singapore brand with you. And in this space, where the digital technologies are evolving rapidly, I mean, you talk about AI. AI technologies have been around for many years, but last two, three years it has really taken off to a different scale. And

who knows where the disruptions will bring us in the next three years, five years, ten years.

10. There are many exciting opportunities, but there are so many potential disruptions to our industry. So as we embark on cyber security, embark on different roles in the new digital economy. Please prepare to do the most important investment of all. Not property, not bitcoins or cryptocurrency. The most important investment that you can do is something that nobody can take away from you is investment in yourself.

11. Your skillsets, your capabilities, creating opportunities, including networking, with your mentors and peers in the industry through AiSP functions. Get to know the industry, get to know people there. Investing in yourself and you will continue to do so day in day out, week in week out, year in year out. You will find that in this field, in this digital economy, this cyber security field, there are many exciting opportunities and I encourage you to find that rainbow, ride it and find your pot of gold.

Thank you.