

Student Volunteer & Recognition Programme (SVRP) Awards Ceremony  
Speech

Good evening,

Mr Tan Kiat How, Minister of State for Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of National Development

Mr Gaurav Keerthi, Deputy Chief Executive, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore

Parents and students, esteemed guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Student Volunteer Recognition Programme Award Ceremony 2021. Firstly, I would like to thank Minister of State Tan Kiat How for taking the time to grace this event.

We received up to 130 nominations for 2021; This batch of students collectively contributed more than 16,000 volunteer hours to the cybersecurity community. The Bronze Award will be given to 51 students while 39 Students will receive the Silver Award. We also have 5 students physically present with us this evening to receive the Gold Award, and 2 students who will receive the Certificate of Merit from our Guest of Honour.

Today also marks another milestone for AiSP, as we will be presenting our very first Honorary Ambassador Award. The Honorary Ambassador Award aims to honour students' contributions and strong volunteering spirit to the cybersecurity ecosystem.

It is both energising and heartening to be here today as we come together to recognise the passion of these young, aspiring cybersecurity talents, and celebrate the impact they have made on our community through volunteerism. I offer my heartiest congratulations to all the award nominees.

I'd also like to thank our partners.

The SVRP was only made possible through the strong ecosystem of partnerships between AiSP, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, and GOVTECH. Kudos to our industry partners particularly the different IHLs, as well as students, who with the endorsement of their lecturers, have put themselves forward to be nominated for the awards.

As the demand for cybersecurity talent continues to soar, companies such as Ensign—which is the key sponsor of SVRP—have a vital role to play in nurturing the future cybersecurity professionals, and in building a robust talent pipeline for the sector.

Wearing my hat as an Ensider, I'm equally proud to say that at Ensign, we share similar goals with the other esteemed organisations here with us today in finding ways to support and cultivate the next generation of cybersecurity leaders. This is one of our key commitments; and to achieve this, we have put in place a multi-pronged strategy to ignite interest, identify talent, and create opportunities for those who are keen to pursue a career in this sector.

With the burgeoning demand for cybersecurity professionals, opportunities abound for those with the passion and interest in this field. I would therefore like to encourage more students to sign up for AiSP's initiatives such as our Special Interest groups, our QiSP, and of course the Student Volunteer and Recognition Programme 2022. Better still, if you're female, you can sign up for AiSP's Ladies in Cyber mentorship programme. Use these various engagement opportunities as a chance to get a taste of what a cybersecurity career could offer and hone your skills in this space.

The cybersecurity industry's main challenge has never been around job shortages; but rather the lack of talent with requisite skillsets to fill specialised roles. With our initiatives and partnerships, AiSP as well as Ensign aim to provide aspiring local talents the opportunity, knowledge, and skills to pursue cybersecurity as a career, allowing them to capitalise on this growing sector's job opportunities.

Not only will this allow us to narrow the cyber talent gap; it will also help our nation's cyber defence keep pace with its digital ambitions, and enable

organisations to build more secure, digitally resilient operations as they continue to transform and position themselves for the future.

Let me close off by offering my sincere congratulations to all award recipients, and my heartfelt thanks to all student volunteers for their contributions to the community.

I wish everybody a wonderful evening ahead. Thank you.

**END**