

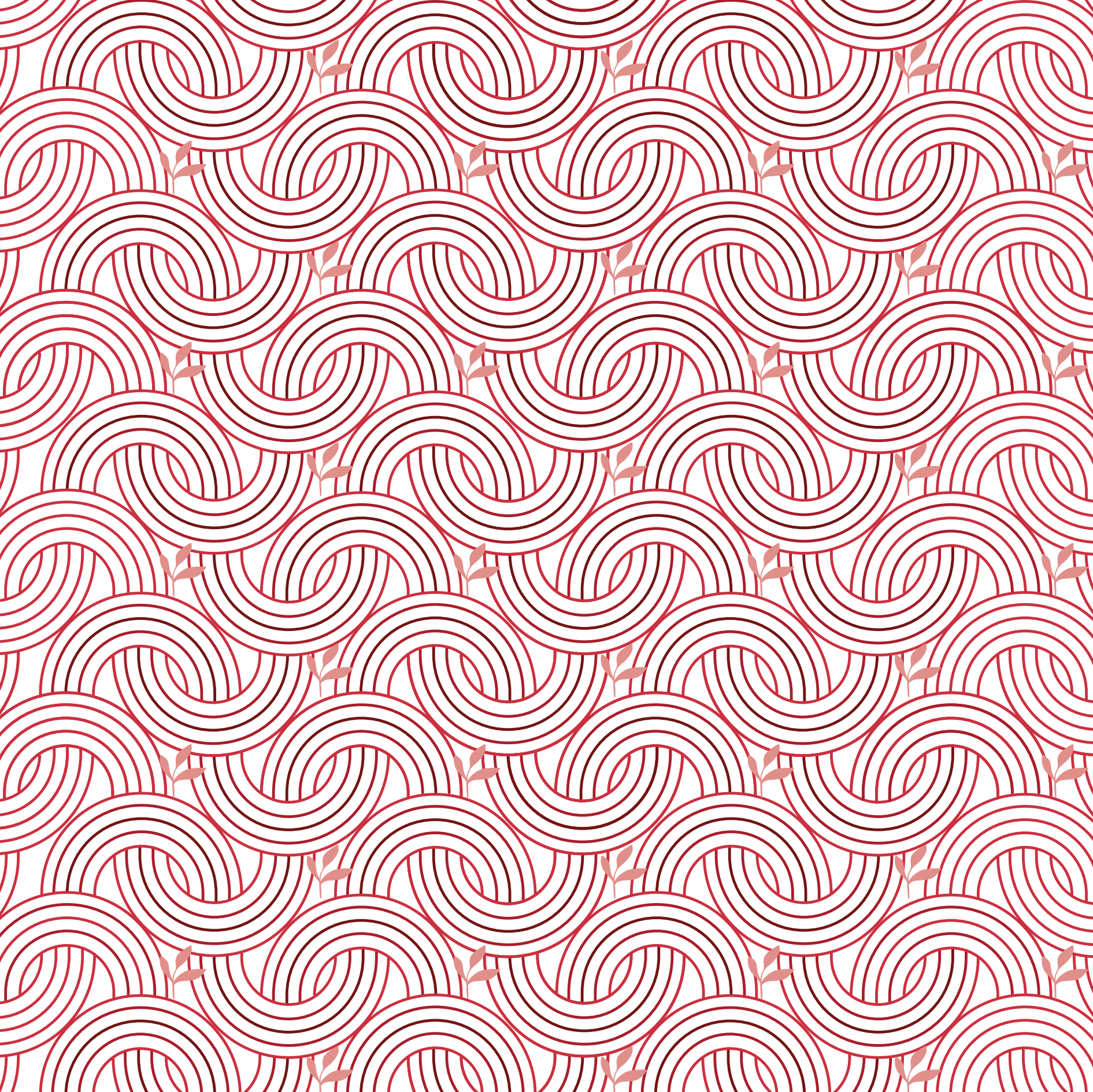


SIT SINGAPORE
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

Kwek Leng Beng
University Tower

Journey to

PUNGGOL



This commemorative logo was designed to mark the 10th anniversary of the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) as an Autonomous University. The number 10 is composed of geometrical shapes, a nod to the multi-faceted journey SIT has taken. The slant of the number symbolises the steps SIT has taken to solidify its status as one of the top choices of university for students in Singapore.



Foreword

This book documents the story of Singapore's first university of applied learning and, within its pages, you will appreciate the effort and commitment that all, from the founding team to our current management and Board of Trustees, have invested into taking the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to where it is today.

And while the journey since we became an Autonomous University (AU) 10 years ago has been filled with many challenges, we continue to scale new heights each year as our faculty and staff endeavour to bring their best each and every day, in order to fulfil our mission. In the past decade, we have grown to become Singapore's third-largest AU by undergraduate intake and our graduates continue to make their mark in various industries ranging from engineering, infocomm technology, allied healthcare, foodtech, fintech to hospitality business. Our graduates are among the most employable given their well-rounded and industry-oriented development. In the next lap, we will be expanding our Continuing Education & Training (CET) programmes through our unique applied learning approach, to deliver an even greater impact for our workforce and economy.

SIT's close nexus with industry has always been key to driving our mission. With the Punggol Campus being sited in the Punggol Digital District (PDD), those linkages will be manifested in various forms – spaces where our SITizens and industry come together to work on applied research projects, multiple touchpoints with industry in order to provide authentic, holistic and impactful education that anchors the experiences of our SITizens and makes them more adaptable, responsive and which prepares them for the future.

Mr Bill Chang

Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Singapore Institute of Technology

My hope is that we will use this wonderful opportunity at our new campus in Punggol to develop closer ties with the industry, co-innovate with them with our various living lab initiatives and create distinctive programmes to develop our learners holistically. We have the opportunity to develop platforms to better serve our enterprises and also to contribute to the community and society, in and around Punggol, and beyond.

More importantly, as we move into our new home, we want to catalyse the community around us and make our Punggol Campus a destination that excites, inspires and entralls those who visit us. We know that a generation of SITizens has passed through our doors; and they have passed on the baton to many who are looking forward to beginning their learning journeys with us. Our Punggol Campus is the ideal platform for everyone who has contributed to SIT's growth – from our pioneer staff to our pioneer cohort of SITizens; industry partners and alumni – to come together and work with us to fuel the next stage of growth.

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who, in one way or another, has contributed to the success of SIT and to the team who has painstakingly put this commemorative publication together. As you go through the pages, I hope that you will be inspired by the stories and by how, from humble beginnings in an office along North Bridge Road, we have endeavoured to build a university that will continue to keep innovating and nurturing individuals who will contribute to Singapore's success in the future.

Enjoy the journey!

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) was established as Singapore's first university of applied learning that aims to educate and train talent that are ready to contribute to industry from the get-go. Over the past decade, we have done this by fostering a strong nexus with industry and developing an integrated applied learning and research approach.

This book chronicles SIT's rapid growth from our early days. It features the hard work, dedication and commitment of our SIT family and partners in striving to maximise the potential of our learners. This rapid growth has paved the way to our new home in Punggol, where the stage is set for SIT to grow to become a premier university of applied learning.

Our Punggol Campus presents us with many opportunities. It represents the coming together of our five polytechnic and Dover campuses. This coming together of all our SITizens, academic clusters, applied research and innovation centres as well as our corporate offices allows us to not only deepen multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching and learning, but also helps us to better provide a holistic education for our SITizens, where values, character and critical thinking are as important as knowledge and skills. Being together gives us the space to learn from, work and grow with one another. This helps us all to become more nimble, responsive and future-ready.

Being situated in the Punggol Digital District (PDD), we are well integrated with industry by design and purpose-built for applied learning and research. The co-location with industry allows us to bring education and research together in more intimate and seamless ways. By partnering industry and working with their real-world systems and tackling the problems that matter to them, we infuse our curriculum with authentic and active learning experiences.

Professor Chua Kee Chaing

President,
Singapore Institute of Technology

By collaborating with industry on applied research projects to build effective solutions, we also inform our education with the learnings and outputs from our research. This loop strengthens our ability to deliver an industry-focused, applied learning education for our learners, and an impactful applied research approach for our industry partners. It drives our mission – to maximise the potential of our learners and innovate with industry.

As a resident of Punggol, opportunities abound for us to contribute to the local community. Whether it is through the sharing of our facilities, working with schools in the region to promote STEM education, mentoring of youth, being the knowledge hub of the community, or supporting local organisations in providing services to the community, we will play our part in being an active and value-adding Punggol resident. Through this, we hope to instill in our students the SITizen-DNA of being grounded in the community and develop the University as a good corporate citizen. As individuals and as a university, we hope to not only contribute to industry, but drive positive change in the community.

Individuals, industry and innovation are at the heart of SIT. Even as we look ahead towards the next decade, we will continue to focus on our core – to build a university that lives and breathes with industry and community and contributes to Singapore and Singaporeans. We hope that as we evolve to meet the shifting demands of learners and industry and become a premier university of applied learning, you will continue on this meaningful and impactful journey with us.

Let us write the next chapter of SIT together!



The Road That Took Us Here:

Building Singapore's First
University Of Applied Learning

It started with just a P.O. box – an address for students to send their university applications to. So hurried was the decision to set up the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) that there was not enough time to build the campus first.

Instead, SIT shared the spaces of the five polytechnics, using their facilities and classrooms for its undergraduates. It began with an inaugural batch of 500 students, growing to its annual intake of over 3,000 today. The difference now is that there is a beautiful campus that SIT can call its own.

2024 is, in fact, a doubly special year for SIT. It celebrates its 10th anniversary as an Autonomous University, as well as its move into a new home in the Punggol Digital District (PDD) – a well-designed university occupying 9 ha of land.

But its history transcends the last 10 years. To fully appreciate the University's transformation, take a step back further in history to 2008. This is the amazing story of how Singapore's determination to offer students more pathways to success and open up more university places led to the formation of a unique institution – one that integrates applied learning and research, and innovates alongside the industry.

*Here is a look at the memorable moments
that have led SIT to where it is today.*

2008

A Plan To Create More University Places

The government had a goal: Raise the university cohort participation rate (CPR), which refers to the percentage of a cohort who are given places in government-funded degree programmes. The figure had been steadily rising through the years. It stood at 21 per cent in 2003, and by 2008, had risen to 25 per cent. But the target, which Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced at his National Day Rally a year earlier, was to hit 30 per cent by 2015.

Singapore's economy was growing increasingly sophisticated, and an expanded university sector would give young students greater choice and room to excel. It would also offer high quality polytechnic graduates more opportunities to access subsidised university education. But the expansion had to be calibrated carefully. Even as the CPR is raised, universities had to maintain high standards, and ensure the quality and employability of their students.

A team, chaired by Mr Lui Tuck Yew, then-Senior Minister of State for Education, was assembled to study how this could be done. It was called the Committee on the Expansion of the University Sector.

At that time, most students entered university via the A-level route, with a fraction coming from the polytechnics. Diploma holders could also enrol in degree programmes offered under the Polytechnic-Foreign Specialised Institute (Poly-FSI) scheme that was set up in 2005.

Under the scheme, the five polytechnics in Singapore would partner reputable overseas universities to offer government-funded degree programmes to diploma holders, ranging from optometry to naval architecture. It catered to about 300 students per year.

The Committee recommended that the Poly-FSI scheme be expanded, as a way to raise the CPR. Polytechnics would increase the number of partnerships with foreign universities, and offer more programmes to students here.



2009

SIT Is Formed

The Ministry of Education announced that the Poly-FSI scheme would be expanded to take in 2,000 full-time students and 1,500 part-time students by 2015. To do so, a new institute of higher learning would be set up to take over the planning, managing and implementation of these joint degree programmes. This new institute was SIT.

To meet the target of serving a total of 3,500 students by 2015, SIT needed to be up and running fast. It could not be built from scratch. Instead, it would operate from the campuses of the five local polytechnics first.

SIT got to work quickly, and began wooing reputable overseas universities from Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States to come on board as partners.

"With these new additions, our polytechnics can retain their important mission of producing diploma graduates that are highly sought after by industry," noted Dr Ng Eng Hen, then-Minister for Education. "Our polytechnics should not drift and become weak universities."

Polytechnic students across Singapore cheered the setup of SIT. They could now obtain a degree from a reputable overseas university, from an institute supported by the government, without having to pay top dollar to go abroad for studies.

Having the right leader to helm this fledgling institute was crucial. In November 2009, SIT selected its first President: Professor Tan Chin Tiong, who had served as the founding Provost and Deputy President of Singapore Management University (SMU) from 1999 to 2009.

Its 14-member board was also established, comprising key individuals from medicine, telecommunications, law and the government. Heading the board was Dr Ng Yat Chung, former Chief of Defence Force.

2010

Enrolment Begins In SIT

The excitement and demand for university places from polytechnic graduates was palpable, and SIT needed to move fast. By March 2010, it was ready to start admitting students – a year ahead of schedule.

It would offer eight degree programmes from five overseas universities. They were the Culinary Institute of America (CIA); Washington's DigiPen Institute of Technology; University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); the Technical University of Munich in Germany; and the Newcastle University in the United Kingdom.

The competition for a place in SIT was intense. There were almost 1,500 polytechnic applicants vying for 500 spots. The courses were a big hit as they offered quality education at affordable prices.

Temasek Polytechnic alumnus Kelvin Ong, who had secured a spot in UNLV, told the media then: "I've always wanted to study in Switzerland or UNLV because they are very well-known in the hospitality circle. But the courses cost a lot."

Despite a decent grade point average of 3.35 out of 4, he could not secure a spot in the business schools in the National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and SMU. When SIT offered him an opportunity, he seized it.



2011

Places For A-Level Holders, Too

Soon, word about SIT's intense admissions process – rigorous interview sessions, portfolio review and assessment of candidates' aptitude and prior work experience – got around. It piqued the interest of A-level graduates too.

Requests began streaming in. Among them was Jonathan Lee, an aspiring chef eyeing a place in the CIA-run degree programme at SIT. When told that SIT programmes were meant for polytechnic graduates only, the disappointed student, who worked as a chef at Middle-Eastern restaurant Artichoke in the evenings, accepted an offer to study business at NTU.

But the following year, in 2011, in response to growing demand, SIT expanded its admissions criteria to include A-level holders. Lee was finally offered the much-coveted spot in the culinary programme, and promptly made plans to switch universities.

The University was growing fast and aiming high. Founding President Professor Tan Chin Tiong said SIT's goal was to evolve into a full-fledged university offering its own programmes. "It will take a while (so) for a start, we will leverage on the foreign universities first... When we have the capacity, our end point is that we want to offer dual degrees together with the foreign universities," he added.

Meanwhile, more spaces in universities were opening. Singapore was on track to hit its target of a 30 per cent CPR by 2015.

Even then, the government acknowledged that the country could do with more pathways and places to higher education, and the CPR could be raised even more.

2012

A New, Best-In-Class SIT

The task to further expand and enhance Singapore's university landscape went to a 15-member committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, then-Minister of State for Education.

The Committee on University Education Pathways Beyond 2015 released a report in August that year, recommending that the CPR be raised even further to 40 per cent by adding another 3,000 university places in all. This would bring the total number of publicly-funded university places to 16,000 per year. However the university landscape had to be diversified, and students should have differentiated options. To meet this objective, the committee recommended that SIT be developed as an Autonomous University focused on applied learning, with close links to the industry.

"The new SIT will be a 'best-in-class' institution that is different in character but equal in status to the existing AUs," the report said. "It will augment the options available in our higher education landscape by offering a distinct degree education that caters to a wider spectrum of preferences and abilities, and produces a different type of graduate to meet the diverse needs of our economy."

This model was vastly different compared with Singapore's existing universities. In a press conference held by SIT after the report's release, incoming President, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, said that the University would work towards becoming a full-fledged Autonomous University by 2014.

The President-Designate was slated to take over the reins from President Professor Tan Chin Tiong, who was due to return to SMU. Professor Tan Thiam Soon was a veteran from NUS, where he had spent 26 years and served as its vice-provost of education in the last seven years. He would go on to lead SIT for the next nine years.

SIT, he said, was not just focused on putting out new degree programmes. Instead, it would look closely at the economy to pinpoint sectors that would require highly trained professionals in the coming years to inform its offerings.

The plan was to build deep ties with industry leaders and nurture them as partners.



2014

SIT Becomes An Autonomous University

Five years after SIT was established, it became Singapore's fifth Autonomous University in March 2014 – a significant milestone in the higher education landscape.

What makes it even more interesting is how it is different from the other four universities. SIT is the first university which focuses on offering applied degree pathways, producing degree holders with specialised knowledge and experience of industry needs.

SIT began with three degree programmes in its own name, enrolling about 300 students – bringing its total annual intake to 1,700. As the University continued to grow, it needed a space of its own.

In 2014, SIT would move its headquarters to the former Institute of Technical Education's (ITE) campus at Dover Drive. The new degree programmes would also be run out of the Dover site.

But at the rate that the University was expanding, the Dover campus was only an interim solution. SIT would eventually need a larger campus that would accommodate its growing degree programmes and cohort of students.



In 2014, SIT became Singapore's fifth Autonomous University. As the University celebrates a decade of growth, we look back at the milestones of the last 10 years.

2014:

Blazing A New Trail With SITizens

 **4,000** students

 **31** degree programmes

Five years after SIT was established, it became Singapore's fifth and newest Autonomous University. This marked a new dawn in the tertiary education landscape, with SIT undergraduates, or SITizens, charting the way forward for a new type of degree holder – individuals with relevant industry skills rather than just theoretical knowledge.

At that time, SIT had about 4,000 students across 27 degree programmes offered with Overseas University partners such as DigiPen Institute of Technology, Newcastle University and the Technical University of Munich.

As a full-fledged Autonomous University, it would be able to run its own programmes. This would bring its total number of degree programmes offered in the new academic year to 31.



SIT was markedly different from other Autonomous Universities which had a strong research focus. At SIT, the emphasis was on applied learning and a practice-oriented education.

Academic knowledge and skills had to be combined with real-world application, and learning paired with industry and community needs. To succeed, SIT needed to build close ties with industry partners and identify growth areas of the economy.

This was a fairly ambitious task that no university here had attempted on a large scale. But SIT accepted the challenge. After all, the University had accumulated five years of experience working with Overseas University partners to design programmes aimed at plugging the gaps in different industries.

Presenting the SIT Bill for it to become an Autonomous University in Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, who was then the Minister for Education, told the House: "By fostering a strong nexus with industry, it will enable our graduates to seize new and diverse job opportunities...By integrating a strong theoretical foundation with real-life applications, and by combining hard skills and a range of soft skills such as communications, problem solving and teamwork, graduates from the applied degree pathway can distinguish themselves."

For SIT, the passing of the Bill was a pivotal landmark. Then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon said: "This is an epochal moment for SIT and Singapore's higher education landscape. The establishment of SIT as Singapore's fifth Autonomous University will enable us to better serve our students and ultimately contribute more to our economy and nation."

*A new chapter had just begun.
SIT was ready to make history.*

- 01** SIT moves into 10 Dover Drive in 2014, its campus also serving as its headquarters.
- 02** Classes for SIT-conferred degree programmes being conducted at the SIT@Dover campus.

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The applied degree pathway can better meet the broad range of learning preferences, strengths and interests that our young Singaporeans possess. This enriched university landscape will meet the individual learning needs of our youths and, in so doing, help them fulfil their potential to the fullest.

Mr Heng Swee Keat

Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and Minister for Education (2011 – 2015)



28 March
Hello To Singapore's Fifth Autonomous University

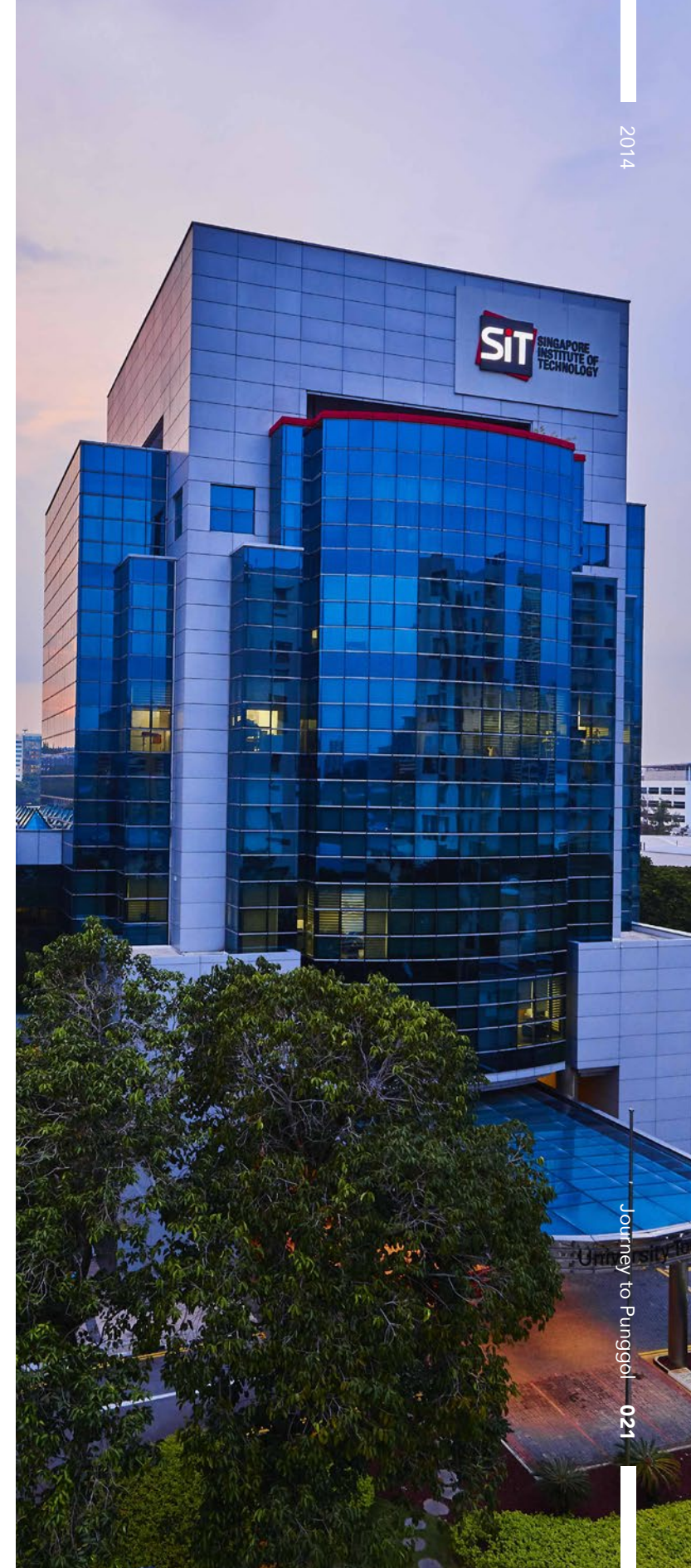
The Bill had been presented, and the debates in Parliament done. Then it was time to wait – for March 28, 2014.

That Friday, all across SIT's distributed campuses, students went on about their day and activities carried on as they should. Everything looked the same, yet something had changed. The SIT Act had come into effect.

SIT was now officially an Autonomous University – the fifth one in Singapore. For the last five years, it played the role of a bridge to facilitate and connect students here to prestigious degree programmes offered by Overseas University partners. Now, it had an added responsibility: to offer, in its own name, top-notch, practice-oriented degree programmes that combined a strong theoretical foundation with real-world applications. At the second reading of the SIT Bill in Parliament, then-Minister for Education Heng Swee Keat said SIT will integrate strong theoretical foundation with real-life applications.

It would start small, offering degrees in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering, Information and Communications Technology and Accountancy. But there was no doubt that bigger plans were in the works.

-  **SIT Act** passed
-  **3 SIT-conferred degree programmes**





16 May A Graduation, And A Fresh Chapter

Dressed in graduation gowns and sporting mortarboards in SIT's iconic shade of bright cherry red, 120 graduands gathered at the Suntec Singapore Convention and Exhibition Centre.

They were the graduating cohort from the Technical University of Munich, DigiPen Institute of Technology (DigiPen) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) – three of SIT's Overseas University partners. The graduation ceremony was extra special – it was the first since SIT became an Autonomous University. Then-President Professor Tan Thiam Soon took the opportunity to update the graduating cohort on the programmes SIT will begin to offer in the new academic year, as he sketched out SIT's plans as an Autonomous University. Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, then-Minister for Education who graced the occasion, urged SIT to focus on three key elements: real-world applications, innovation and life skills.



- 01 A sea of striking red on Graduation Day as students celebrate a new milestone in their lives.
- 02 Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, then-Minister for Education, congratulates the parents of an SIT graduand.





19 August Backed By Industry Leaders

As a university of applied learning, industry partnerships are crucial for SIT.

To give students in its newly launched Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours degree programme a leg up, SIT signed Memoranda of Understanding with 11 accounting firms, including the Big Four – Deloitte and Touche, Ernst and Young, KPMG Services and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

These agreements signalled the industry's support for SIT's Accountancy programme. Students would have opportunities to be attached to these firms for their Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP), SIT's flagship work experience scheme that gives students eight to 12 months of relevant work experience through a company attachment. With deeper engagements with the industry, SIT could also tailor the IWSP to ensure it fits the manpower needs of individual companies.



- 01 A day of meaningful exchanges as industry leaders gather to support SIT.
- 02 Members of 11 accountancy firms bear witness as SIT marks a fresh collaboration with the accountancy industry.
- 03 Accountancy leaders put pen to paper as they commit to supporting SIT students with work attachment opportunities.





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29 August Day Zero Is When Change Begins

Five months after SIT was granted its status as an Autonomous University, it welcomed its first intake of undergraduates into its own degree programmes.

But first, there was Day Zero – SIT’s flagship orientation programme for all freshmen. Over four days from August 29, the students played games, participated in art workshops and attended briefings on the degree programmes they would be embarking on.

In his closing address, Professor Loh Han Tong, who was then the Vice-Provost, issued a challenge to the students: blaze a new trail and show the world what SITizens are capable of. “You are the pioneer batch at SIT; you need to create a path which hadn’t existed before,” he said.



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01 Professor Ting Seng Kiong, then-Deputy President (Academic) and Provost, welcomes the pioneer batch of students of its inaugural degree programmes.

02 Games, art workshops and talks -- Day Zero was a day of community bonding.

03 Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-SIT President, addresses students at Day Zero.



September Degrees At SIT, By SIT

The new academic year also marked the start of the first three degree programmes awarded by SIT. Prior to this, SIT worked with overseas universities to offer their degree programmes in Singapore.

The three new programmes in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land), Information and Communications Technology (Software Engineering) and Accountancy aimed to plug gaps in the industry. The Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering programme, for instance, is a highly-specialised course focusing on railway engineering and developed in collaboration with partners like transport regulator Land Transport Authority and rail operators SBS Transit and SMRT.

SIT would continue to expand its degree programmes over the next few years while keeping an eye on its mission: to produce practice-oriented, industry-ready students.

01 Then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon (second from right) is joined by (from left) President of Council for Estate Agencies Mr Quek See Tiat, then-Deputy President (Academic) and Provost Professor Ting Seng Kiong, and Mr Andrew Khaw, then-Senior Director of Productivity Growth Through ICT at Infocomm Media Development Authority, as he announces the establishment of new degree programmes conferred by SIT.

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We want to provide an industry-focused and community-involved university experience to our students. As a university of applied learning, SIT will build on our students' unique talents and capabilities.

Dr Ng Yat Chung

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees (2009 – 2022)

November Satellite Campuses At Polytechnics Ready For Class

SIT was able to get up and running so quickly because of one key decision: Decentralisation.

In the early days, it operated from satellite campuses across the five polytechnics in Singapore. At the start, SIT ran its lessons from the polytechnics, using facilities such as lecture theatres and laboratories.

But as the number of offerings and students grew, SIT needed its own building to house its programmes. And so in each polytechnic sprang a brand-new SIT building, complete with specialised facilities targeted at specific programmes. At the satellite campus in Temasek Polytechnic, for instance, students in the Food Business Management programme have culinary demonstrations and wine and beverage training in a 30,000 sq ft facility that includes three professional teaching kitchens.

The satellite campuses across the five polytechnics were ready in end-2014. They welcomed their first students the following year in 2015.



- 01 SIT@SP Building at Singapore Polytechnic
- 02 SIT@NP Building at Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- 03 SIT@NYP Building at Nanyang Polytechnic
- 04 SIT@TP Building at Temasek Polytechnic
- 05 SIT@RP Building at Republic Polytechnic



2015:

The University Of
Theory And Practice

During the 2015 National Day Rally speech, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong quoted a Chinese proverb: “十年树木，百年树人”， which means it takes 10 years to grow a tree, and 100 years to nurture a person.

He was underscoring the need for a long-term view when it came to education. Investments made into learners would only bear fruit years down the road – but it was important to make them anyway.

SIT was set up for that very purpose. In the same speech, PM Lee recounted his inaugural visit to SIT seven months earlier.

“I met (SIT’s) students and staff,” PM Lee said. “They were keen about their future, passionate about what they were doing, and the students relished the opportunities for internships to apply what they have learnt and to show off their skills.”

The positive sentiments they expressed were a good sign that SIT was getting off to a promising start. Although it had been an Autonomous University for less than a year at that point, its unique pedagogy was already making an impact – in particular when it came to the “internships” mentioned by PM Lee in his speech.

A pioneer batch of over 80 students had secured industry placements as part of SIT’s signature IWSP, launched the year before. Over the course of eight to 12 months, these students would immerse themselves in the working world, learning on the job and putting theory into practice.

Such working stints went beyond traditional industrial attachments in both duration and scope. Besides applying what they learnt in the classroom, IWSP students were also actively encouraged to think outside the box and spark innovation in the workplace.

Preparing students for industry was a hallmark of the newly Autonomous University – and one that deserved national recognition, especially in light of Singapore’s Golden Jubilee.

As PM Lee went on to note, education would play a critical role in developing citizens’ – and SITizens’ – self-reliance and ability to stay ahead of the pack. These would be critical to the nation’s success in the next 50 years.

01 Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (second from right) on a visit to SIT@Dover campus, accompanied by (from right) then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indranee Rajah, and then-Deputy President (Academic) and Provost Professor Ting Seng Kiong.

02 The SIT@RP Building is one of SIT’s five satellite campuses.





26 January A Visit From The Prime Minister

During his first visit to SIT at the SIT@Dover campus, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong chatted with members of its faculty as well as students.

Among those he met was Chen Zhangkai, 27, who had graduated from SIT's joint degree programme with the DigiPen Institute of Technology in 2014.

Despite being a late bloomer, Zhangkai managed to land his dream job as an animator. His final-year project and portfolio at DigiPen had impressed the director of an animation company, who offered him an internship and, subsequently, a job.

"(SIT) is a good example of how we are expanding education paths for Singaporeans," said PM Lee in a Facebook post on his visit, noting that the University would provide more opportunities for polytechnic graduates to upgrade themselves.



- 01 Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong being briefed on developments in the University, including enrolment numbers and faculty hires, during his first visit to SIT@Dover.
- 02 Staff and student leaders of SIT give a warm welcome to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and then-Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indranee Rajah at the SIT@Dover campus.





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I had lively meetings with both faculty members and students from SIT yesterday. The students asked me if having a degree was necessary for success. I replied that it is not the degree itself that counts, but what you have learnt.

Mr Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister of Singapore (2004 – Present)

27 January SIT@RP Building Opens Its Doors

The first spade hit the ground two years earlier. By January 2015, a shining, modern building had sprung up on the grounds of Republic Polytechnic (RP), with the SIT logo proudly emblazoned on its facade.

Named SIT@RP Building, it was the fifth and final satellite campus in SIT's network of polytechnic campuses. At nine storeys tall, the building could house up to 660 students – a third of SIT's then-student population of 2,000.

The students benefited from the extra space. SIT@RP Building became home to undergraduate students from the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Computing Science programme, a joint degree offered by SIT and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. The space was also home to SIT's Hospitality Business programme when it was launched in September that year.



01 The SIT@RP Building housed the SIT's Computing Science and Hospitality Business degree programmes, both offered in collaboration with Overseas University partners.



June IWSP Students Make Their Mark On Industry

For most SIT students, June marked the start of their third school trimester. But for students embarking on their IWSP, it was the halfway mark of their working stint.

A core component of SIT's applied learning pedagogy, the IWSP allowed students to augment their theoretical knowledge with practical industry experience. The pioneer batch of IWSP students included 63 from the Accountancy programme, who kicked off their stint in January after going through a competitive recruitment process held by industry partners.

That same year, the University also signed Memoranda of Understanding with organisations in other industries such as manufacturing. The move opened up more opportunities for SIT students to gain real-world working experience.



01 The IWSP Preview, a networking event SIT organises for undergraduates to meet companies offering work attachment opportunities, offers students a window to the working world. Students take the chance to find out more about specific industries and raise queries to potential employers.





September Five New Degree Programmes

At the start of 2015, SIT announced five new applied degree programmes in a range of up-and-coming fields, such as hospitality and information and communications technology. This brought its total number of degree programmes offered to 36.

As the new school trimester kicked off in September, these programmes welcomed their first intake. Among the slew of fresh offerings was the Bachelor of Hospitality Business (with Honours) programme, the first hospitality undergraduate degree to be offered by an Autonomous University in Singapore.

Other new courses included the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Information and Communications Technology (Software Engineering), a highly specialised degree programme; and the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Systems Engineering (ElectroMechanical Systems) – or SEEMS for short.

The latter, offered jointly with the DigiPen Institute of Technology, equipped students with multidisciplinary skills to tackle issues in hardware and software engineering.

- 01** The Bachelor of Hospitality Business with Honours degree programme nurtures competent hospitality graduates equipped with strong operational skills that are anchored in solid theoretical knowledge.
- 02** Students in the Information and Communications Technology cluster are given opportunities to work on applied research projects in fields ranging from software engineering to cybersecurity.



2016:

Find Your Rainbow – Be Confident,
Aim High And Do Well

The future was on everyone's mind when SIT held its first Dialogue with SITizens on October 24, 2016.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, the guest speaker, highlighted two key questions in line with the forum's theme: Preparing for the Future Economy. "First, the future — what will it look like? And secondly, what can we do to prepare for it?" he asked.

With the economy at a turning point, he told the 500-strong audience comprising SIT undergraduates and staff: "Your working careers and pathways in life will be very different from your parents' generation. You will experience more changes. Your lives will be less predictable but also, I believe, more varied and rewarding."

One reason for his optimism was SIT, he noted, which offers students the chance to develop through many different pathways, to explore a wide range of opportunities.

While countries in the region experience high youth unemployment due to the proliferation of degree holders, Singapore does not intend to walk the same path – even though it is increasing the number of university places.

The difference is in planning, ensuring that the skills learned in universities such as SIT lead "to qualifications which are relevant to the industries". "That means the opportunities are there, to get a degree first or at least a good qualification and ultimately, a job, a career, and a bright future," said PM Lee.



01

SIT, which had been granted autonomous status for less than two years at that point, had been busy preparing its students for jobs of the future.

Seven new applied degree programmes were introduced that year, including the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nursing. Offered jointly by SIT and the University of Glasgow, the two-year programme's curriculum was co-created and designed with input from health practitioners across the care continuum and the Ministry of Health.

All seven degree programmes also featured SIT's signature IWSP, which was launched in 2015 so its students could apply classroom knowledge in a real work environment.

As Professor Loh Han Tong, then-Provost of SIT, said: "As a university of applied learning, we have adopted the approach of integrating learning, industry and community, and ensuring that our degree programmes are industry-focused and tailored to meet manpower demands in Singapore."

For PM Lee, his advice to SIT students was: "You will encounter challenges – rainy days, sometimes even thunderstorms. But if you press on through the storms and rain, the skies will eventually clear, and then, if you have worked hard to get yourself into the right place, you will find your rainbow. So be confident, aim high, and do well."

01 The one-day Career Nexus held every year is a key event for SIT undergraduates, as they meet organisations from diverse industries and learn more about the opportunities and expectations in the job market.



18 January

Joint Nursing Degree To Offer Best Of Both Worlds

To produce nursing staff attuned to Singapore's needs while armed with a broad outlook, an agreement was inked on January 18 between SIT and the University of Glasgow.

The two universities would jointly offer the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nursing, a two-year post-registration degree programme. The curriculum was designed in tandem with industry partners like local healthcare institutions, as well as the Ministry of Health, to ensure it is relevant to Singapore's healthcare industry.

SIT's signature IWSP is a core component of the academic curriculum. Undergraduates are also required to complete a four-week Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) at the University of Glasgow.



01 Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow (left) and then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon launch the new Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nursing, which aims to address nursing care needs of the population in Singapore.



To this end, we will continue to offer specialised, applied degree programmes which are industry-relevant, as well as produce graduates who are imbued with the SITizen-DNA and are well-prepared to contribute to the 'future-proofing' of Singapore.

Associate Professor Ivan Lee

Vice President (Industry and Community), SIT (2015 – 2021)

01



2 March Launch Of Career Nexus To Open Doors For SITizens

SIT kicked off its inaugural career fair by offering SITizens networking opportunities with over 100 industry partners. These included companies in the engineering and tech sectors, as well as ministries and statutory boards.

Called Career Nexus, a highlight of the fair was the 'Recruiters in Residence' programme, where SITizens took part in a series of interviews conducted by senior HR executives from industry partners such as Accenture, Kellogg and Unilever. At the end of it, they were given valuable feedback on their interview skills.

The one-day fair also featured an interactive discussion panel called "Voices of Experience", where SITizens heard first-hand from representatives from Google, PSA and more on the industry's expectations of fresh graduates.

SIT's proactive strategy of engaging industry partners for career preparation, job search and recruitment aims to better prepare SIT graduates for the job market.

 **100** industry partners

01 SIT students, aptly attired in business wear, are ready to make an impression at the annual Career Nexus, a networking event that brings undergraduates and industry partners together.

01





28 March

Celebrating Two Years As An Autonomous University

To mark its second anniversary as an Autonomous University, SIT welcomed then-Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and his fellow Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC MPs to the SIT@Dover campus on March 28, 2016.

Dr Ng Yat Chung, then-Chairman of SIT's Board of Trustees, and Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-President of SIT, took DPM Teo and his guests on a 60-minute campus tour.

Throughout the visit, DPM Teo and his guests engaged with SITizens and university faculty to learn how applied learning was integrated into the University's curriculum and how it benefited the local community.



01 Then-Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean tours the SIT@Dover campus with fellow Members of Parliament of Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC, including Ms Sun Xueling, Minister of State for Home Affairs and Social and Family Development.

02 Then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon (second from right) leads then-Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean (first from left) and NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng (first from right) around the SIT@Dover campus.



We have positioned ourselves as the university that 'future-proofs' our students and graduates with real-world skills so that they remain relevant throughout their careers. And we do this in innovative ways, from the design of curriculum to forging of industry partnerships with SMEs, government agencies and MNCs, as well as working with our Overseas University partners to help our graduates stay ahead in the changing job market.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT (2013 – 2021)



Be confident, aim high, and do well. And a generation from now, you will have built Singapore into something much better, something beyond what our imagination can dream of today.

Mr Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister of Singapore (2004 – Present)



24 October
A Special Guest
For A Special Event

SIT's first Dialogue with SITizens called for a special guest. And that was none other than Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Mr Lee engaged with SITizens at the SIT@Dover campus on a broad range of topics, from cybersecurity and politics to the future of tourism in Singapore.

He also addressed key concerns from some students, who were worried that employers may not recognise graduates of a relatively new university like SIT.

In response, he said that it was important to prove to employers that SIT graduates would not fall short in comparison with other graduates.

- 01 Chase the rainbows and seize opportunities, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong tells students.
- 02 SIT students take the chance to raise concerns they have about school and life.
- 03 Selfie time!
- 04 All smiles as then-SIT President Professor Tan Thiam Soon hosts Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at SIT@Dover.



2017:

Powering Up For The Future

The groundwork had been laid. Now, it was time for action. In 2017, plans for the upcoming centralised SIT campus at Punggol – mentioned at the National Day Rally in the two preceding years – began to take shape in earnest.

A key development was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIT and SP Group, a leading provider of electricity and gas in Singapore. The MoU marked the beginning of a venture between SIT and SP to build and operate a multi energy urban microgrid at the University's upcoming Punggol Campus.

The microgrid would be the first of its kind for a university in Southeast Asia. Supplemented by multiple energy streams, ranging from traditional sources such as gas to renewable solar energy, it would pave the way for an emissions-free campus.

It would also serve as a platform for students and faculty to push the boundaries of applied research, and to do so in close collaboration with industry stakeholders. In other words, the campus itself would function as a “living lab”.

That such preparations were being made in advance clearly signalled the University's commitment to being a nexus between academia and industry.

"The aim of the 'living lab' is to support Singapore to be a regional hub for digital advancements and talent development by integrating education, innovation and research into real-life environments and scenarios," said Professor Steven Wong, Director of SIT's Centre for Digital Enablement.

SIT's Punggol Campus, premised on the "living lab" concept, will be an open innovation ecosystem.

This means that industry partners, students, faculty, and even members of the Punggol community will be able to share ideas and generate novel solutions together, using the campus itself as a test-bed.



01 At the graduation ceremony in 2017, then-Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung congratulates SIT for producing its first batch of graduates from its own degree programmes.

02 Following a symposium to discuss workplace safety and major hazards, SIT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Employment and Employability Institute and the Society of Loss Prevention to promote the training of skilled professionals with knowledge in process safety.





24 February SIT Confers Its First Degrees

SIT is no stranger to graduation ceremonies. But February 24, 2017 marked the first time its students were graduating from an SIT-conferred degree programme since the University gained Autonomous University status in 2014.

“Being the first is always very exciting,” remarked Mr Ong Ye Kung, then-Minister for Education who attended the ceremony as its guest of honour.

He went on to note the achievements of this pioneer cohort of graduates, which comprised 82 students from the Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours programme. For instance, 84 per cent had received job offers from accountancy firms they had worked with as part of SIT’s IWSP.

It was a testament to the success of the University’s applied learning model. This “pedagogy of choice” was, in turn, transforming its students into candidates of choice in the working world.

01 With the solemn national anthem, the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017 officially begins.

02 Graduands ponder the words of then-Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung, who encouraged them to dream big and spread their youthful dynamism at their future workplaces.





We are shifting to a new paradigm, driven by major demographic shifts, technological disruptions and innovations. Our workforce must be able to handle the new jobs that require different and continually changing skillsets. SIT will continue to develop and nurture a new generation of young professionals with both the right mindset and the skillset to meet the needs of the future economy.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT (2013 – 2021)

4 March Let The Games Begin

It might have been a Saturday, but for some 305 SIT students and staff members, it was time for some serious effort.

Over the course of one jam-packed morning, they competed in nine sports, including basketball, floorball and ultimate frisbee.

They made up the inaugural Inter-Cluster Games, which pitted SIT's five academic clusters against each other in a battle for the Provost Cup.

While the fighting spirit ran high, only one cluster could emerge champion. That year, the Health and Social Sciences cluster came out top dog.

The games strengthened the SIT spirit. Prior to competition day, students from different academic clusters had come together to train, despite the fact that they would be playing on different teams.

"One SIT, one family", read a caption from the Engineering cluster's Instagram page.



01 The Inter-Cluster Games is a time for competition, but also for community and bonding.

01



1 April



Bringing Lifelong Learning To More Working Adults

In the age of disruption to industry, upskilling is more important than ever for working professionals who wish to stay relevant.

To help more working adults access higher education, SIT launched its lifelong learning division, SITLEARN Professional Development, in April 2017.

SITLEARN offers courses and certificates for working adults looking to upgrade, as well as customised training courses for companies seeking to retrain their workforce. Courses are co-taught by SIT faculty and industry experts.

By 2023, more than 16,000 participants from over 1,000 companies have benefited from SITLEARN's offerings. These include over 240 courses in five key domains, ranging from Business, Communication and Design to Infocomm Technology.

-  **16,000** participants
-  **1,000** companies
-  **240** courses

01 Across two professional symposiums organised by SITLEARN and the Health and Social Sciences Cluster, healthcare professionals gather to discuss issues on falls in older adults and how to care for the elderly with dementia.

01





9 October

A Temperature Check

As an Autonomous University, SIT had to undergo a rite of passage: a review conducted under the Quality Assurance Framework for Universities (QAFU) put out by the Ministry of Education (MOE).

A regulatory framework for Autonomous Universities, QAFU functions as a “temperature check” of sorts. In other words, it helps universities get a feel of whether they are developing as they should in matters of governance, management, teaching and learning.

It is conducted by an External Review Panel (ERP) that includes local corporate leaders and renowned academics.

Was SIT staying true to its mission of being a university of applied learning? The answer was a categorical yes.

In its report to MOE, the ERP concluded that key SIT initiatives – such as its IWSP and Professional Officer Scheme – served to differentiate it as a university of applied learning.

The panel also noted that small and medium-sized enterprises that had partnered with SIT on various projects described SIT’s faculty and students as proactive and energised in creating new solutions for industry.

“

As plans for our campus in Punggol begin to take shape, our focus remains on creating and curating a space that is empowering yet welcoming, a ‘home’ for our students and hotbed of innovation for the creative, digital enterprises that will be co-located within our grounds.

Dr Ng Yat Chung

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees (2009 – 2022)

23 October Microgrid, Macro Aspirations

SIT's upcoming campus in Punggol will break ground in more than one way.

Apart from being co-located with industry partners in the PDD, it will also be the first campus in Singapore – and the region – to be equipped with a Multi-Energy Microgrid (MEMG). When completed in 2024, it will be Singapore's largest private microgrid.

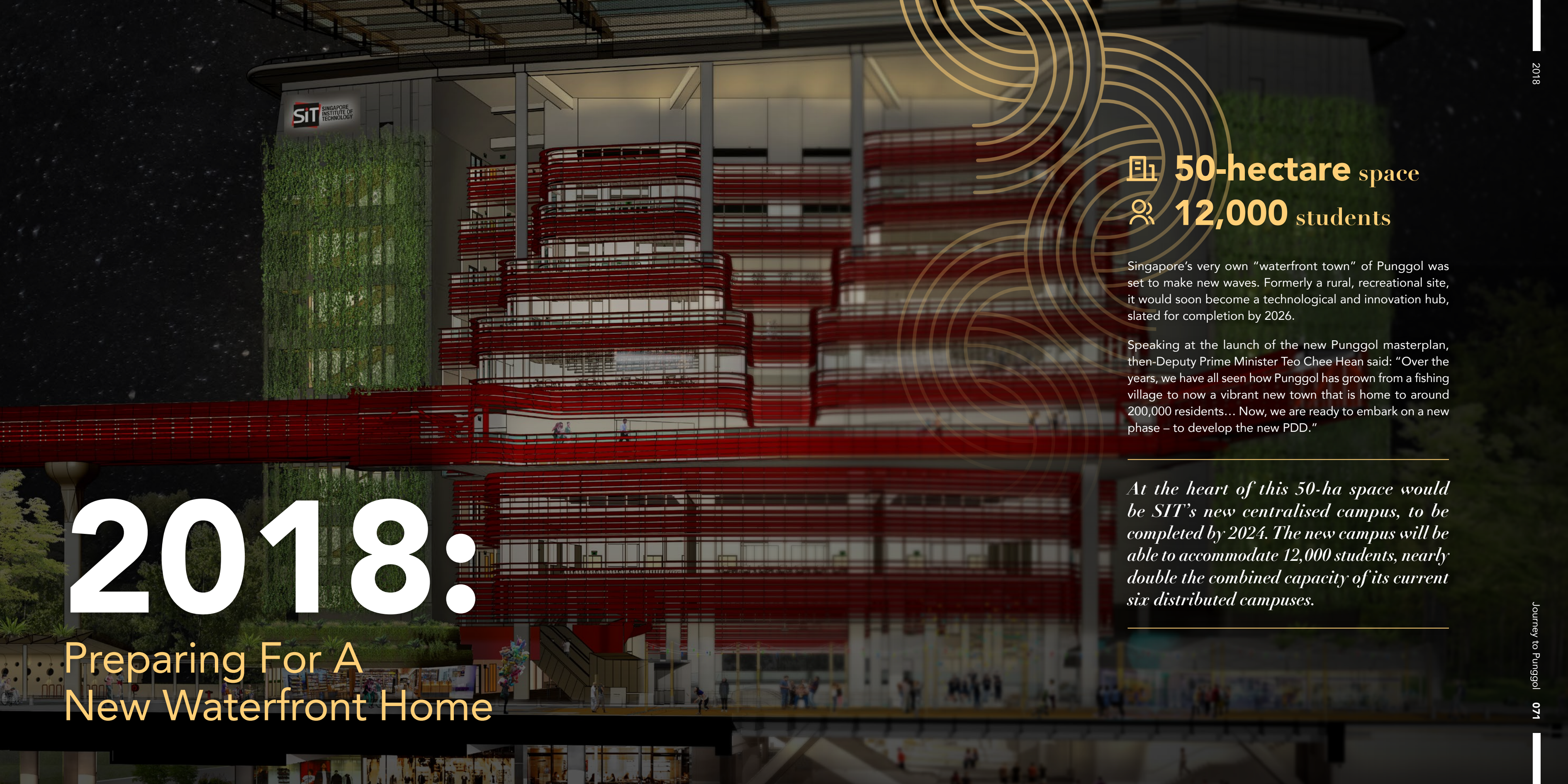
The MEMG will draw from multiple energy sources, including solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Up to 10,000 sqm of PV panels will be arranged on building rooftops. Once fully operational, it could generate enough energy to power 40 Housing Development Board flats. This is the equivalent of removing 2,000 vehicles from the roads.

The MEMG is a venture between SIT and the SP Group. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties during the 2017 edition of Singapore International Energy Week, witnessed by then-Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Ms Sim Ann.



01 SP Group commits to supporting SIT in building Singapore's largest private microgrid.





SIT SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

 **50-hectare** space

 **12,000** students

Singapore's very own "waterfront town" of Punggol was set to make new waves. Formerly a rural, recreational site, it would soon become a technological and innovation hub, slated for completion by 2026.

Speaking at the launch of the new Punggol masterplan, then-Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said: "Over the years, we have all seen how Punggol has grown from a fishing village to now a vibrant new town that is home to around 200,000 residents... Now, we are ready to embark on a new phase – to develop the new PDD."

At the heart of this 50-ha space would be SIT's new centralised campus, to be completed by 2024. The new campus will be able to accommodate 12,000 students, nearly double the combined capacity of its current six distributed campuses.

2018:

Preparing For A New Waterfront Home



It will also be “borderless”. In keeping with PDD’s standing as Singapore’s first enterprise town, the University will be part of a mixed-use development that integrates industry, academia and even residential buildings.

This means SIT’s research labs and learning facilities could be co-located within the business park buildings belonging to JTC Corporation, which is one of the master planners of PDD. Meanwhile, start-up labs could be set up on the University campus itself.

In other words, Punggol is set to be transformed into Singapore’s very own “mini-Silicon Valley” – a technological nexus where innovation meets commercialisation.

As Singapore’s first university of applied learning, SIT is set to be the beating heart of PDD – contributing ideas, research and talent to take local and international businesses to the next level.



01 SIT’s Punggol Campus is uniquely endowed with an existing secondary forest. The design is aimed at preserving the lush greenery, and the campus buildings are integrated with biophilic tropical spaces.

21 January

A Bridge Between Industry And Academia

A model of the upcoming PDD was unveiled to the public for the first time on January 21, 2018.

Visitors to the exhibition at Waterway Point were able to feast their eyes on gleaming miniature buildings nestled among lush green spaces. Among them were buildings belonging to SIT, whose new centralised campus would spring up on the site by 2024.

"There will be many opportunities for students and teaching staff from SIT and industry practitioners in the Digital District to interact and exchange ideas, and use the Digital District and Punggol as a test-bed for new technologies," said then-Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, who was the guest of honour at the exhibition launch.



The new kid on the block has now been around the block a little, grown up a little, and is about to sink its roots deeply in Punggol.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT
(2013 – 2021)



On the infrastructure front, our plans for the Punggol Campus to be an innovative, stimulating learning environment are taking shape. It is heartening to note that the Punggol community has begun to embrace our students and faculty through the many community initiatives that have been undertaken involving residents in Pasir Ris-Punggol GRC.

Dr Ng Yat Chung

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees
(2009 – 2022)





01



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25–26 January Working Together To Advance Applied Learning

Over the course of two days, 300 attendees hailing from educational institutions and industry converged at the Conrad Centennial Singapore for the nation's inaugural Applied Learning Conference.

Organised by SIT, the conference brought the local and international community together to share strategies and best practices on how to prepare students for a rapidly changing industrial landscape.

"Industry does not work on a five-year cycle or 10-year cycle," said Dr Janil Puthuchery, then-Senior Minister of State for Education, who was the guest of honour at the event.

He added that getting applied learning "right" means building an education system that is responsive to the real-time demands of industry.

Today, the conference is a biennial event that continues to foster close collaboration among experts in this pedagogical field.

01 Over two days, international and local experts from academia and industry gather at the Applied Learning Conference to share their thoughts on applied learning, and how pedagogy and practice have evolved. Such conferences aim to nurture closer connections between academia and industry.





23 August Small Cohort, Big Ambitions

It was one of the smallest graduating classes SIT had seen in its history, but this batch of 29 engineers and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) managers packed a punch.

Hailing from port operator PSA Singapore, these working professionals had just completed a part-time programme in Systems Engineering, offered by SIT's lifelong learning division, SITLEARN. Over a year, they juggled work and school in a bid to rewire their minds for the future. It was a timely upgrade. Work was underway on a mega port in Tuas, which had been announced in 2012. Touted as the "port of the future", Tuas Port will be the world's largest automated port by the time it fully opens in the 2040s.

With the help of the Systems Engineering course, students gained a better understanding of how to design and maintain complex automated systems – vital for PSA's new generation of high-tech, intelligent container terminals.



- 01 Mr Ong Kim Pong, then-Regional Chief Executive Officer of Southeast Asia at PSA International, congratulates graduands hailing from PSA Singapore.
- 02 On completion of the 12-month Systems Engineering programme, participants gain renewed understanding of complex automated systems and their inter-relationships.





While it's not uncommon to have industry or enterprise take up space in universities or sponsor research and collaborative endeavours in institutes of higher learning, PDD is unique and a first-of-its-kind in that it is conceived as a fully-integrated district that merges learning spaces within enterprise and vice versa.

Mr Chan Ee Mun

Director at WOHA Architects (2002 – Present)

1 November Joint Offerings Get A Refresh

Food delivery via unmanned flying drones? Smart buildings where temperature can be remotely controlled? In 2018, these sounded like science fiction. But they would soon become reality.

The rapid pace of technological innovation means that university degrees, too, have to evolve. To that end, SIT signed a collaboration agreement with its long-time partner, the University of Glasgow, in November 2018.

The collaboration distilled and strengthened the joint offerings of both universities. The existing five degree programmes offered by the University of Glasgow and two joint degree programmes were merged into five joint degree programmes, to be rolled out from 2019. These included Singapore's first aerospace undergraduate programme that specialises in unmanned systems, and the first computing programme offered by an Autonomous University that specialises in the Internet of Things.

It was the latest example of how SIT actively teamed up with its Overseas University partners to prepare its students for the future.



2018



Journey to Punggol 081



2019:

Breaking New Ground At Punggol

📅 **2024** completion
of Punggol Campus

🏠 **90%** employment rate

A large lego-like structure with a smart screen enclosed within it caught the attention of many. The blocks were in shades of red, black and white — representing the colours of SIT.

On the smart screen showed a digital mock-up of buildings meant to represent the University's new centralised campus in the heart of PDD, which was unveiled at the groundbreaking ceremony in Punggol on September 10, 2019.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who was the guest of honour at the ceremony, said that the campus will "strengthen the close nexus that SIT already has with the industry".

A well-known unique model in the local university landscape, SIT is set to break new ground and raise the bar further when it moves into its new home.

When completed, the 9-ha campus, on two plots of land about the size of 17 football fields, will be able to accommodate 12,000 students. This is far more than the 8,000 students in the University's distributed campuses in the five polytechnics and Dover currently.

The new campus, slated for completion in 2024, is in the heart of the upcoming PDD, within JTC Corporation's business park buildings. This allows for seamless collaboration between SITizens, faculty and industry professionals, and will further encourage integrated applied research and innovation among SIT and its partners.

Noting the healthy 90 per cent employment rate for SIT graduates, PM Lee added: "SIT's model balances meeting students' degree aspirations, while ensuring they are sought after by the industry."

Did you know that when the campus at Punggol is completed, it can accommodate 12,000 students, which is nearly twice the combined capacity of SIT's current distributed campuses?

- 01 Artist's impression of the sky terraces at SIT's Punggol Campus.
- 02 Buildings have been designed to be porous and interconnected.



1 July SIT Names Auditorium After Ho Bee Land

On July 1, 2019, SIT unveiled the name of its auditorium at the interim SIT@Dover campus and its future auditorium at the new campus in Punggol. Both were named after developer Ho Bee Land, which had donated \$3.25 million to the University.

Among those at the unveiling ceremony were Dr Chua Thian Poh, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ho Bee Land, and then-Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung, who was the guest of honour.

Expressing his appreciation for the generous donation, Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-President of SIT, said: "SIT is honoured by the firm support from Ho Bee Land – a Singaporean company with a global outlook, and a name that is associated with both quality and sustainability – the very same outcomes that we are also keen to achieve."



Thank you for taking the lead to support SIT and our students at this point of our journey.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT
(2013 – 2021)



The SIT model built upon the strength of our polytechnic system and diploma education. Based on their diplomas, SIT students were granted advanced standing by the university partners, and thus could complete their degrees faster, in two to three years.

Mr Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister of Singapore (2004 – Present)





10 September SIT To Sink Roots In Punggol




Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony of SIT's new campus on September 10, 2019, where he congratulated the University on yet another milestone.

Ten years after its founding and five years after its establishment as an Autonomous University, SIT was set to move to a new campus at PDD.

Due to be ready in 2024, the campus will be home to Southeast Asia's first Multi-Energy Microgrid, which will aid Singapore's transition to a low-carbon energy future.

This tie-up between SIT and SP Group underscores the University's mission to keep abreast of industry developments through applied learning.

 **The completed SIT campus will span 9 hectares, on two plots of land about the size of 17 football fields.**

01 The courtyard at the Punggol Campus is designed as a community park.

02 When completed, the campus will be by the waterfront, facing Coney Island.

17 September Celebrating Long-Service Staff

SIT held its inaugural Staff Appreciation Day on September 17, 2019.

As a part of the “5+5” celebrations – five years from 2009 to 2014, and five years as an Autonomous University from 2014 to 2019 – 89 staff members received long-service awards.

85 staff were awarded five-year service awards and four received 10-year long-service awards – the first time such accolades were given out at SIT.

To mark the University’s 10th year of founding, staff also toured a “Moments Exhibition” that showcased its significant milestones.

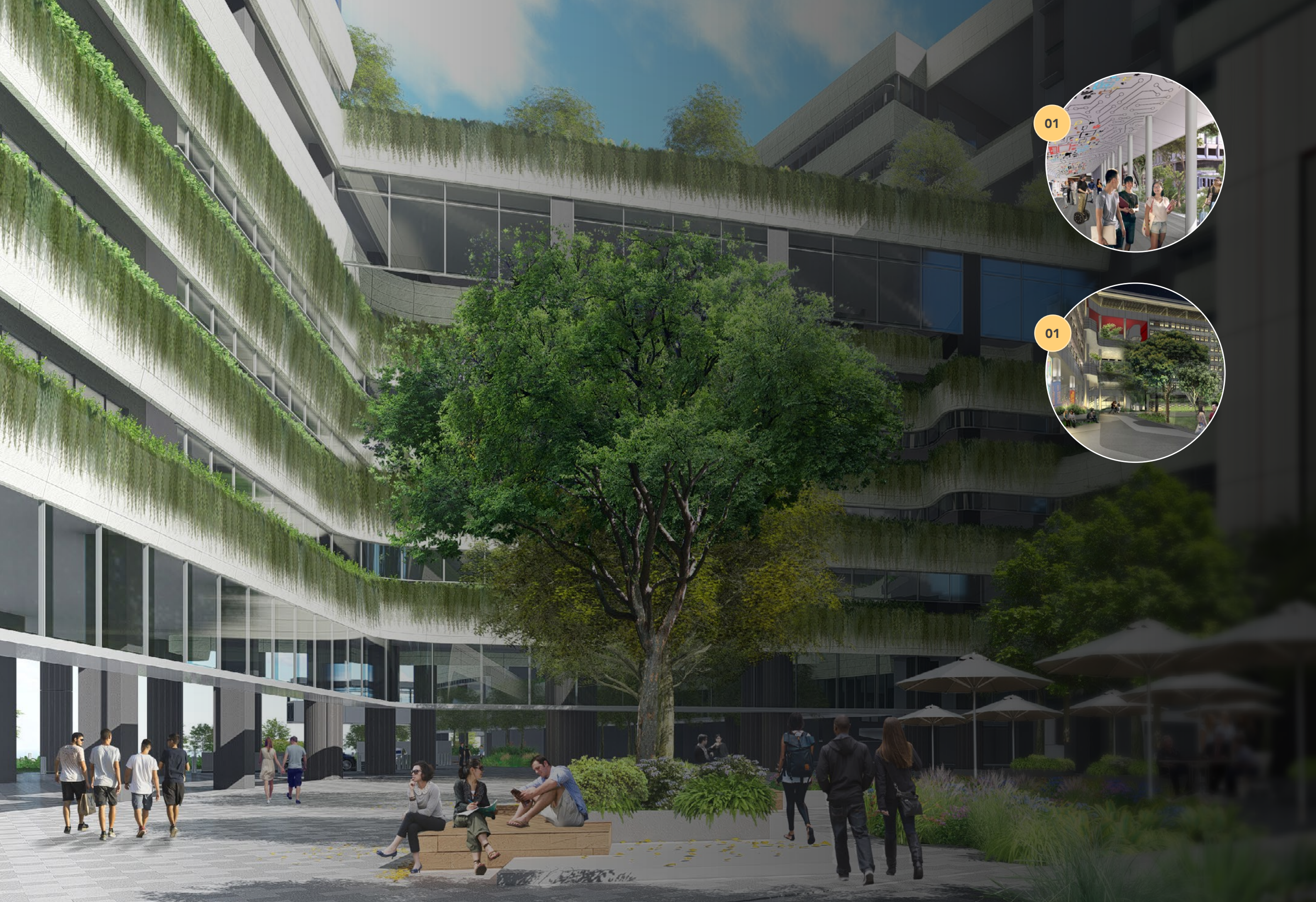
- 🏆 89 long-service
- 🏅 85 five-year service
- 🌟 4 10-year service



We have the opportunity to build a campus that is approachable and aspirational, fostering a vibrant environment that is both inviting and inspiring. It is indeed a rare opportunity to re-imagine what a university campus of the future will be and work towards realising it.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT (2013 – 2021)



October Work Begins At SIT's New Campus

Construction for SIT's new campus commenced in October 2019. Upon completion, it will be the first Autonomous University in north-eastern Singapore.

The new grounds are located in the heart of PDD, which is set to become a vibrant and inclusive tech district. Jointly designed by WOHA Architects and RSP Architects, the campus, which will be divided into Campus Heart and Campus Court, will integrate green technologies with urban architecture.

Campus Heart, also known as "Campus-in-a-Park", will house the academic blocks in a forested courtyard. Campus Court, which overlooks Coney Island and Ho Bee Auditorium, will house two Super Low Energy buildings that boast best-in-class energy efficiency and run on renewable energy.

The University will also open some of its facilities to the public to strengthen ties with the community. These include the Campus Boulevard, a vibrant space with various retail and F&B offerings.

01

01

01 The public will be able to access some of the facilities in the Punggol Campus.



3 October

NEA And SIT Collaborate To Launch EETC

On October 3, 2019, SIT announced a collaboration with the National Environment Agency (NEA) to set up an Energy Efficiency Technology Centre (EETC).

Mr Ananda Ram Bhaskar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Environmental Protection) of NEA, and Associate Professor Ivan Lee, SIT's Vice President (Industry and Community), signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Launched at the end of 2019, the centre has three key goals to address shortcomings in the local energy efficiency ecosystem: It will catalyse energy efficiency improvements for SMEs through consultancy services; train a pipeline of engineering undergraduates in industrial energy efficiency; and upskill existing engineers with hands-on training courses.



- 01** Professor Lock Kai Sang, Head of Energy Efficiency Technology Centre, addresses the audience at the National Energy Efficiency Conference.
- 02** The MoU formalises the partnership between the National Environment Agency and SIT.
- 03** Professor Lock Kai Sang helps a panel discussion at the National Energy Efficiency Conference.





The aim of the 'living lab' is to support Singapore's vision to be a regional hub for digital advancements and talent development by integrating education, innovation and research into real-life environments and scenarios.

Professor Steven Wong

Director, Centre for Digital Enablement, SIT

29 October

SIT Recognised At Singapore Energy Award 2019

On October 29, 2019, SIT was presented with the Singapore Energy Award for Capabilities Development by then-Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing.

Since 2013, the University has been the only institute of higher learning to offer a dedicated Electrical Power Engineering undergraduate degree. SIT was recognised for its pioneering role in leading manpower and talent development within the sector.

Beyond an industry-relevant academic curriculum, SIT continually strives to create innovative solutions for the energy sector.

Besides a Multi-Energy Microgrid, the new campus will also feature a District Cooling System. The system is a key enabler for improving sustainability standards. It will reduce carbon footprint at the estate level while meeting the campus' air-conditioning needs.



2020:

Growth Amid A Pandemic

💰 **\$16.1m** donations
👥 **Enrolment of
8,000** undergraduates

SIT marked a new era in its history with a major milestone. In 2020, it became Singapore's third-largest university by undergraduate enrolment with nearly 8,000 students.

The growth could be credited to SIT's unique pedagogy of applied learning, drawing students to its specialised industry-related degrees. Its IWSP, a compulsory company attachment that gives students a head start in the workplace, is another highlight.

But there was no time to mark this milestone. A mysterious virus was sweeping across the world. The COVID-19 pandemic not only closed borders, but also shut down offices and schools across the globe as countries tried to stem its spread amongst the population.



Like universities around the world, SIT had to navigate the shift to virtual learning. It also quickly rallied around its students, setting up the Student Relief Fund at SIT (COVID-19) for those hit by financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Appeals for donations were sent out on March 30, and \$458,400 was raised within three weeks in the form of gifts and pledges. The fund provided grants of up to \$2,000 to cover students' daily living and educational expenses, such as tuition fees and the cost of purchasing laptops.

A grateful Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-President of SIT, said: "It is heartening that this Fund made possible by SIT's philanthropic partners will work in tandem with existing relief measures by the government to stabilise our students' finances during this crisis, and help to ensure that their education will not be derailed."

This sense of solidarity and community would see the SIT family through the turbulent year.



01 The SIT community got together to set up temperature screening stations and ensure the delivery of supplies such as test kits and masks to its various campuses.

30 March

A Helping Hand For SITizens During COVID-19

As the coronavirus pandemic roiled the world, SIT quickly set up the Student Relief Fund at SIT (COVID-19) to ease the burden of students grappling with financial emergencies.

The fund raised more than \$2.2 million in just a year. Total donations amounted to more than \$2.8 million, benefitting 1,218 SITizens.

Eligible SITizens were awarded grants of up to \$2,000 to help defray living and educational expenses such as tuition and course material fees.

💰 **More than \$2.8m**
raised in total



SIT staff, students and partners displayed unity and resilience through this unprecedented time, often going above and beyond their regular work to ensure that business went on as usual...In addition, with the support from our philanthropic partners and donors, the Student Relief Fund at SIT (COVID-19) raised more than \$800,000 in less than two months, in aid of students who were impacted by the pandemic. In the face of these challenges, I am heartened to see how our people here at SIT have risen up to the challenge.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT (2013 – 2021)

A photograph of a green corrugated metal building with the words "Tinker Lab" written in large black letters on its side. A yellow door with "MAIN ENTRANCE" written on it is visible. The building is set against a blue sky with some clouds and green trees in the background.

Tinker Lab

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1 April New Office To Bolster Research Efforts

To boost its status as an applied research university, SIT set up a new Applied Research Office (ARO) on April 1 to facilitate greater strategic partnerships.

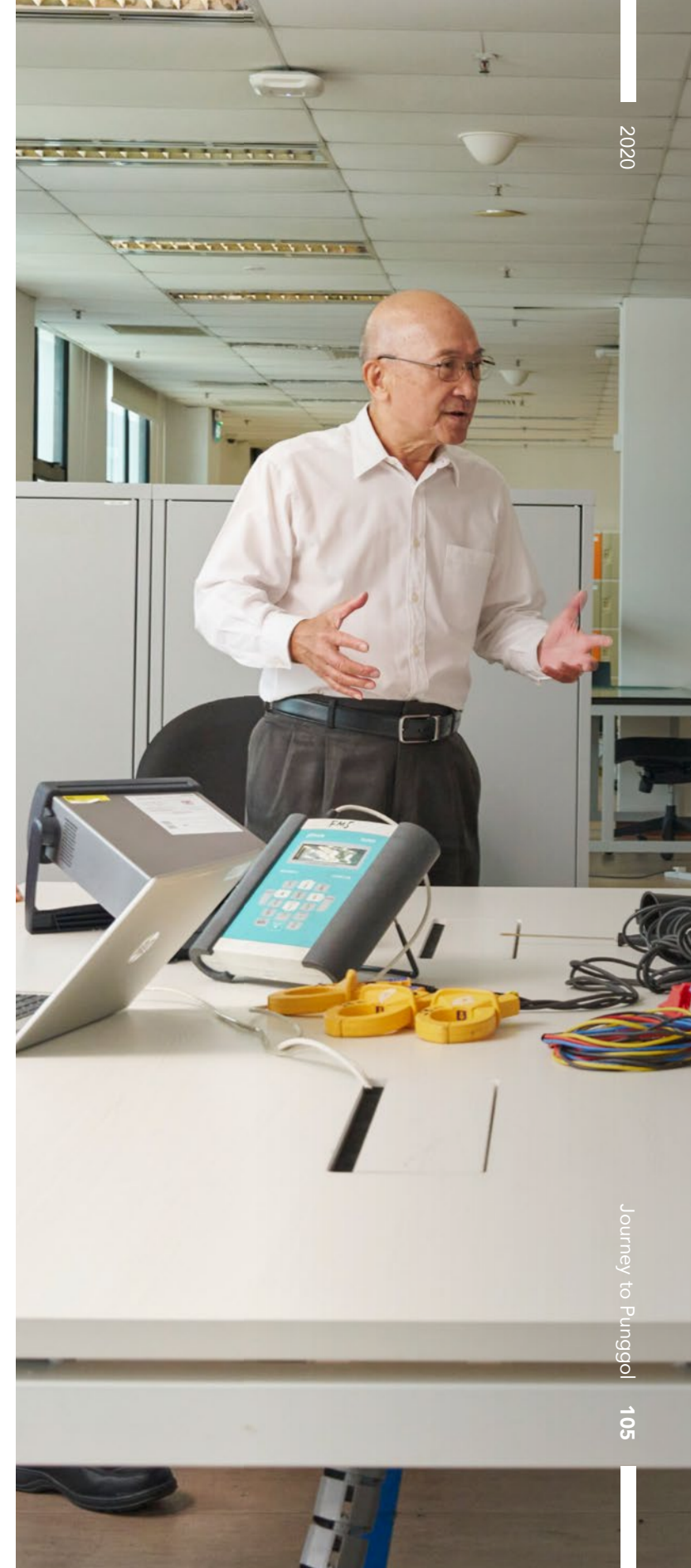
The ARO oversees research compliance and governance; research grant administration and performance; and research-related governance for postgraduate research.

It also provides financial support to faculty members through internal grants such as the Seed Grant, Ignition Grant and Innovation Capability Grant. With these, researchers can jumpstart projects and test ideas.

These grants also help fund strategic programmes by researchers across various industries, from Energy Resilience to Community Health Transformation.

In the long run, these programmes will provide solutions that will help tackle imminent national challenges.

01 Professor Lock Kai Sang, Head of the Energy Efficiency Technology Centre (EETC), at a discussion with his teammates. The EETC comes under the Applied Research Office, which governs applied research and innovation activities.



7 September SIT Marks New Milestone

SIT became Singapore's third-largest Autonomous University by full-time undergraduate intake, after NUS and NTU.

As Singapore's only university of applied learning, it is constantly expanding its degree offerings to meet evolving industry needs. Some 8,000 students are enrolled in its 38 undergraduate courses, which range from accountancy to speech and language therapy.

The robust enrolment signals growing confidence in SIT's unique pedagogy of applied learning.

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01 Lessons at SIT are a mix of lectures and hands-on experiences, where students get to integrate knowledge and research with practical skills.

“

Demand for our programmes continues to remain high, with an overall application rate of 4.5 times. Today, our staff and faculty work hard to help nearly 8,000 enrolled students achieve their dreams as they look forward to joining more than 9,500 alumni who have received degrees from SIT or one of our Overseas University partners.

Dr Ng Yat Chung

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees (2009 – 2022)

24 August The Show Must Go On

The pandemic might have upended everyday routines, but life had to go on.

Adapting to the new normal, SIT moved its orientation online. Its first e-orientation, held on August 24, saw a strong turnout.

Through a microsite designed by four SITizens majoring in Infocomm Technology, the 2,733 participants engaged in various activities, such as 3D virtual tours of SIT's satellite campuses.

The University also organised a virtual Day Zero – a compulsory orientation day for all freshmen. Through 140 Zoom sessions involving over 180 faculty members, incoming students learned about SIT's applied learning pedagogy. An online club fair, which featured SIT's over 90 student clubs and programmes, rounded out the induction programme.

 **140** Zoom sessions



1 October Setting A CLASIC Example

To encourage its students and faculty to give back to society, SIT launched the Community Leadership and Social Innovation Centre on October 1, 2020.

Called CLASIC for short, it serves as a one-stop centre that curates and manages community and social innovation projects across the University. This is in line with one of the SITizen-DNA – to produce students who are grounded in the community.

CLASIC has embarked on more than 10 projects with community partners such as schools, hospitals and social service agencies. The University also set up a CLASIC project grant scheme to spur further service-learning and social innovation programmes.

 **One-stop** centre

 **10+** projects



Working together on community projects will allow students across disciplines to learn that formulating practical solutions for issues that impact society often requires a holistic assessment of the environment and its stakeholders. This is where they can further develop their creativity, as well as analytical and critical thinking skills, which are crucial for the future economy.

Professor Yaacob Ibrahim
Director of CLASIC (2020 – 2023)



We recognise the importance of collaborating with the industry – not just for the purposes of our students' work attachments and applied research, but also in the building of workplace competencies.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon

Institute Professor and President of SIT (2013 – 2021)



13 November

SIT Launches NACE@SIT With SkillsFuture Singapore

Capping a year of several firsts, SIT launched a workplace learning centre on November 13, 2020. **NACE@SIT, short for National Centre of Excellence for Workplace Learning at SIT, is the first such centre in an Autonomous University.**

A tie-up with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), it aims to help organisations build workplace competencies.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also inked between Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, SIT and SSG to support the hospital in skills, talent development, healthcare innovation and workplace learning.

Through NACE@SIT, the hospital would be able to tap SIT's extensive network of industry partners and experience in applied learning to expand its capabilities.



2021:

Work, Learn, Level Up

2021 marked the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic – a global healthcare crisis which laid bare the underlying vulnerabilities in sectors ranging from construction to transport. To the affected sectors, it was clear that business-as-usual was no longer tenable. With this recognition came a paradigm shift in attitudes towards education.

In particular, businesses realised the importance of workplace learning. Employees needed to be given opportunities to upskill or re-skill themselves if they were to effectively meet challenges in a world that was becoming increasingly disruptive by the minute.

As a champion of lifelong learning, SIT had a significant role to play. That year, it piloted the Competency-Based Workplace Learning (CBWL) pathway, a unique educational model aimed at making higher education more accessible to workplace learners.

The CBWL pathway went beyond a part-time degree. Instead, it allowed learners to split their time between work and study. It also featured a strong element of industry support, with partners in critical growth sectors like cybersecurity and transport chipping in to facilitate conducive workplace arrangements for learners.

These partners contributed to the design of CBWL programmes, ensuring that the course material stayed relevant and up to date with the latest industry developments.

The launch of the CBWL pathway forged yet another link in the chain between SIT and industry.

By adopting a coordinated, practical approach, SIT and its industry partners were on track to fostering resilience in the workforce and future-proofing sectors, as well as recognising the individual educational aspirations of workplace learners.





If we can work with companies to curate workplace learning to allow in-employment learners to upgrade and gain relevant higher certifications that are useful to and hence recognised by the companies, we create win-win solutions for both the learners and the companies.

Professor Chua Kee Chaing

President of SIT (2022 – Present)



16 January

SIT Kicks Off Its First Virtual Open House

New year, new beginnings. Across the island, schools were putting their best foot forward in a bid to woo a fresh batch of students.

But 2021 came with a dampener. Safe management measures were still in force, restricting gathering sizes to eight per group. With that, SIT went virtual instead.

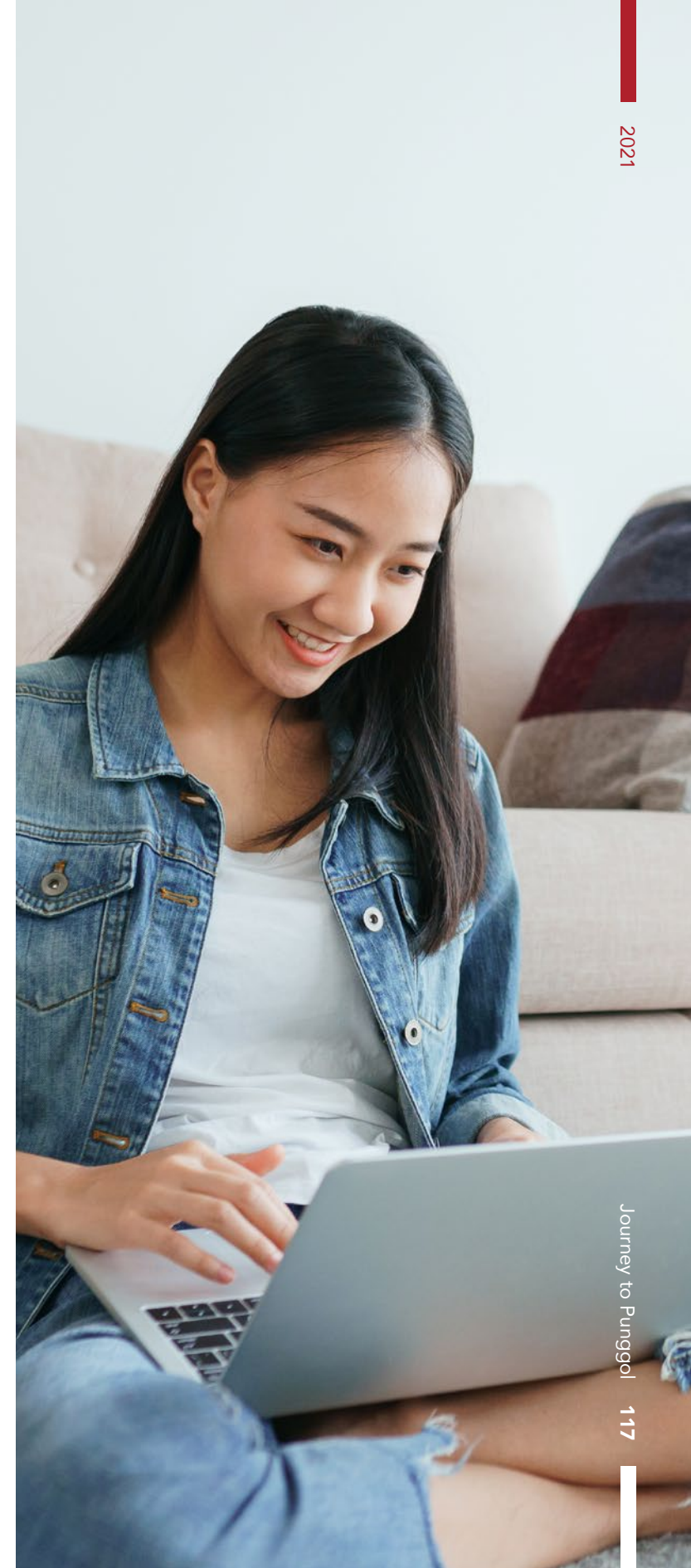
Over the course of two weekends, it hosted its first ever Virtual Open House (VOH). Prospective students could attend talks from the comfort of their homes and use a “live chat” function to interact with seniors and faculty members.

They could also “visit” the grounds of SIT’s distributed campuses, including lab facilities, through a 360-degree virtual tour.

The numbers spoke to the success of the VOH. A microsite specially curated for the event attracted over 81,000 unique visitors, with over 25,000 viewing online talks. In comparison, 2020’s open house attracted 5,000 people over one weekend.

 **81k** microsite visitors

 **25k** online talk viewers



21 January

Building Foundations For The Future

The COVID-19 pandemic hit certain sectors hard. Construction, for instance, slowed to a near halt, battered by viral outbreaks among workers and supply chain woes.

It exposed the need to strengthen the industry and improve its resilience. To that end, SIT established the Construction Technology Innovation Laboratory (CTIL) in 2021.

It did so with the support of Woh Hup (Private) Limited, a leading construction and civil engineering company in Singapore. Woh Hup contributed \$2 million in funding to CTIL, which aims to provide a platform for Singapore-based construction companies and SIT researchers to carry out applied research.

The goal is for research to translate into impact. The launch of CTIL kickstarted research projects in areas such as innovative construction technologies. In time, these projects could lead to cost savings of 25 to 30 per cent by improving efficiency on-site.

💰 **\$2m funding**
💰 **25-30% savings**



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23 February In-Person Graduation Is Back With A Bang

Held at The Theatre at Mediacorp, SIT's graduation ceremony in 2021 was significant in more ways than one.

As the first Autonomous University in Singapore to conduct a physical graduation ceremony post-COVID, all eyes were on SIT to set the precedent for graduating safely and in style. It did this by staggering the cohort over 11 sessions, with the ceremony spanning five days instead of the usual three.

Close to 2,200 graduates from 47 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes received their degree scrolls. Among them were the pioneer batch of 211 locally trained Allied Health professionals, many of whom had been on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19 in 2020.

"Usually, it takes several months for us to get our full certification," shared 25-year-old Ang Xu Kai with The Straits Times at the ceremony. "But because they needed us in the hospitals, only a few weeks after I finished my last academic module, I started working at NUH," added Ang, who was valedictorian in his class of 52 diagnostic radiography graduates.

 **2,200** graduates

- 01** Despite having to wear masks to their graduation ceremony, graduands remain in high spirits as they celebrate this momentous milestone.
- 02** A graduation ceremony for the new normal, as students and staff mask up to ensure the community stays safe even as they celebrate.



4 August Workplace Learners Get A Boost

At SIT, “learning on the job” means exactly that. In 2021, it inked two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with industry partners, cementing its pilot CBWL pathway.

Targeted at workplace learners, the pathway provides more opportunities for working adults to pursue a degree while working. It also takes into account learners’ existing competencies.

The push for workers to upskill was a timely one. At the signing of the MoU, Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing emphasised that the biggest challenge faced by economies was to produce graduates with relevant skills, given rapidly evolving industries.

Four industry partners from the cybersecurity and transport sectors signed the MoU. Soon after, two pilot programmes were launched. They were the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Information and Communications Technology (Information Security) and the Master of Engineering Technology and Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land).



Education can no longer be front-loaded, but needs to be continual and lifelong.

Professor Tan Thiam Soon
Institute Professor and President of SIT
(2013 – 2021)





There's much to learn, and upskilling is like a constantly evolving muscle that we need to keep training so that we can meet fresh challenges head-on.

Mr Jonathan Goh

SIT alumnus and Principal Engineer at ST Engineering

20 December Growing Singapore's Underground

The underbelly of urban Singapore is made up of thousands of kilometres of lines, pipes and cables: from train lines to sewer pipes to transmission cables for power services.

These attest to the importance of tunnelling engineering. In anticipation of the growing importance of this field of study, SIT established the Centre for Infrastructure and Tunnelling Engineering (CITE).

Set up in collaboration with the Land Transport Authority, CITE aims to help workers in the sector reskill by offering them certification opportunities. It also gives researchers and industry experts a common platform to collaborate on research, with the goal of producing industry-specific solutions.



01 The Centre for Infrastructure and Tunnel Engineering gets a thumbs up from Land Transport Authority's Chief Executive Ng Lang (second from left) and SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing (second from right).





Kicking off the new year with a new leader at the helm, SIT welcomed its third President, Professor Chua Kee Chaing, in January 2022. He took over the reins from Professor Tan Thiam Soon, who stepped down after nine years.

The University also saw the appointment of new Chairman, Mr Bill Chang, to its Board of Trustees after over 12 years of leadership under founding Chairman, Dr Ng Yat Chung.

Professor Chua joined the University in 2019 as Deputy President (Academic) and Provost, and was instrumental in developing key areas such as applied learning and applied research – both hallmarks of SIT.

2022:

SIT Welcomes Its Third President



Professor Tan, who joined SIT in early 2013, remains part of its leadership as Institute Professor, supporting the new President and mentoring the University's younger leaders.

As SIT's second President, Professor Tan helped push for the Institute to become an Autonomous University in March 2014. Later, he led efforts to secure approval and funding for a new centralised campus in Punggol.

He also launched the IWSP, SIT's flagship programme that has become the cornerstone of its applied learning pedagogy. "Increasingly, the future is not going to be defined by a paper qualification. It is going to be defined by real skill sets," he had said in an interview.

Professor Chua has built on his predecessor's efforts, rolling out new initiatives to burnish SIT's standing as Singapore's first university of applied learning.

For instance, he oversaw the launch of Singapore's first Competency-based Stackable Micro-credential (CSM) pathway for working adults, which offers targeted and bite-sized learning to arm them with specific skills that add up to a degree – in line with their career aspirations and industry demand.

SIT's mission statement was tweaked in 2022 to reflect greater efforts towards applied learning: "To maximise the potential of our learners and to innovate with industry, through an integrated applied learning and research approach, so as to contribute to the economy and society."

"I am deeply honoured to be given the opportunity to lead SIT into its next phase of growth, and I look forward to working with all stakeholders of SIT to further strengthen our mission as Singapore's premier University of Applied Learning," said Professor Chua.

1 January Passing The Baton

From becoming an Autonomous University to getting the green light for a new permanent campus, SIT hit many milestones under the watch of its second President, Professor Tan Thiam Soon.

After nine years, it was time to pass the baton.

On January 1, 2022, Professor Chua Kee Chaing stepped into the role.

As SIT's third President, he would steer the University towards the next phase of growth, deepening applied learning and applied research initiatives to produce work-ready graduates and postgraduates.



I have every confidence that SIT will continue to grow and thrive under the leadership of Kee Chaing, who possesses the strategic vision and expertise to solidify SIT's reputation as Singapore's premier University of Applied Learning.

Dr Ng Yat Chung

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees
(2009 – 2022)

24 January Industry-ready Graduates

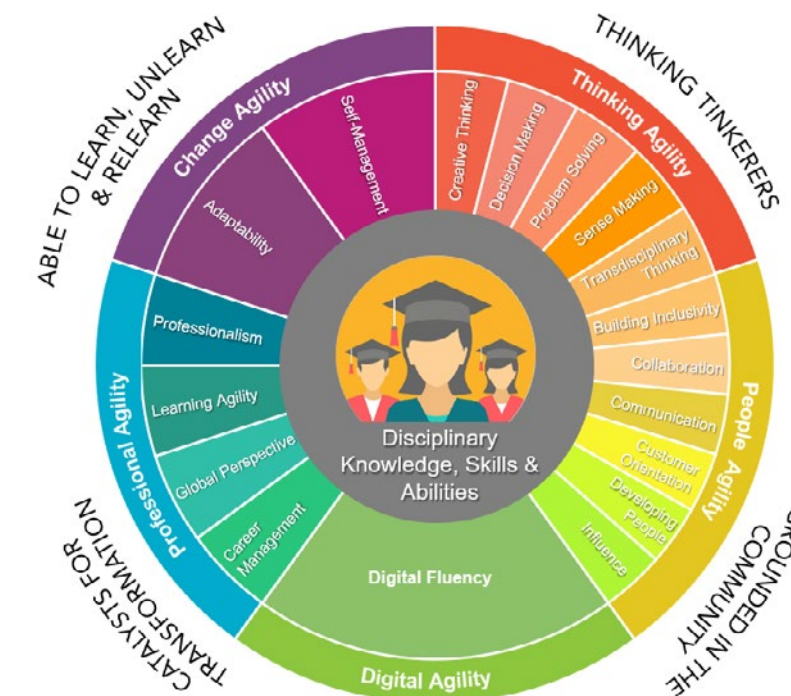
To keep up with evolving workplace trends and ensure its graduates stay employable, SIT launched the Industry Ready Skills Framework (IRSF) on January 24.

Five structured transferable skill areas were identified: Thinking Agility, People Agility, Digital Agility, Professional Agility and Change Agility. By incorporating these into its academic curricula, SIT would equip students with the necessary skill sets to grow, pivot and remain adaptable throughout their careers.

The framework also provides SITizens with opportunities to hone additional skills such as Creative Thinking, Digital Data Literacy and Professional Ethics.



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26 January Property Developer Makes His Mark On SIT

In appreciation of his generous donations over the years, SIT will name the student centre in its new Punggol Campus after property magnate Chua Thian Poh.

To be called the Chua Thian Poh Discovery Hub, the student centre will take up two floors in the new campus.

At the naming ceremony held on January 26, 2022, where Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing was guest of honour, Mr Chua also donated an endowed gift of \$2.6 million to SIT in honour of his late mother, Madam Seah Sar.

The donation would fund SIT's student and academic activities, and a new bursary. Called the Chua Thian Poh Bursary, it would award \$5,000 to eligible SITizens every year.

Mr Chua, the founder of real estate developer Ho Bee Land, is a long-time benefactor of SIT. In 2019, he also donated \$3.25 million to support the University's student and academic activities.

- 01** SIT Institute Professor Tan Thiam Soon, then-SIT Chairman Dr Ng Yat Chung, Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing, Mr Nicholas Chua, Chief Executive Officer of Ho Bee Land, Dr Chua Thian Poh, Executive Chairman of Ho Bee Land, and SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing at the naming ceremony for the Chua Thian Poh Discovery Hub.
- 02** Mr Nicholas Chua, Chief Executive Officer, Ho Bee Land, and Board Chairman, Chua Foundation, addresses the audience.
- 03** SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing expresses his gratitude for Dr Chua Thian Poh's firm friendship and support for SIT.



4 February

The Gift Of Knowledge

This is one for the books – SIT received its biggest donation to date, from Ngee Ann Kongsi Foundation. The \$25 million would be disbursed annually over 10 years.

It would support the development of SIT's library, which will be named Ngee Ann Kongsi Library.

When completed, the library will span 8,637 sqm, the size of approximately one-and-a-half soccer fields. It will scale up resources in Information, Digital and Media Literacy (IDL) to equip SITizens with information beyond the classroom.

Part of the donation would also be used to set up the Ngee Ann Kongsi Emergence Fund, which would enable needy students to access learning opportunities such as exchange programmes and internships.

💰 **\$25m** donation
📖 **8,637m²** library





I look forward to working closely with our SIT leadership and Board to make SIT Singapore's premier University of Applied Learning, supporting industry innovation and industry transformation.

Mr Bill Chang

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees



16 March
Changing Of The Guard

2022 was looking to be a year of many changes.

Following the appointment of its third President, SIT welcomed Mr Bill Chang as the second Chairman of its Board of Trustees on March 16, 2022.

Mr Chang, Chief Executive Officer, Digital InfraCo, Singtel, succeeded Dr Ng Yat Chung, who had held the position for more than 12 years.

Mr Chang said: "I am honoured with this appointment as Chairman of SIT at an exciting time for the University. SIT's mission to groom young talent to be work-ready professionals and lifelong learners who contribute to, and impact both industry and our society, resonates strongly with me."



01 Mr Bill Chang, Chief Executive Officer of Digital InfraCo at Singtel, took over from Dr Ng Yat Chung as the second Chairman of SIT's Board of Trustees.





20 April Food Innovation Gets A Boost

SIT jointly launched Singapore's first shared facility of small-batch food production with Enterprise Singapore and JTC Corporation, in a bid to beef up the food innovation scene.

Called FoodPlant, the \$13 million facility in Senoko Drive enables firms with less financial muscle to test products in small batches, expand their research and development capabilities, and tap training resources.

Urging more companies to leverage FoodPlant to enhance their capabilities and forge partnerships, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat said at the opening ceremony on April 20: "Singapore, with our high food safety standards and diverse cuisines, is well placed to build on our trusted brand and export our food products to the region and beyond."

FoodPlant is expected to benefit at least 200 food manufacturers and aid the development of some 400 new food products by 2026.

01 Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat is hosted by SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing and SIT Chairman Bill Chang as he tours FoodPlant, a small-batch food production facility that enables smaller, less well-resourced firms to test food products in small batches. Singapore has the right ingredients to be a key node of food and nutrition in Asia, says Mr Heng.





19 May SIT Staff Get More Support

New guidelines were set up to ensure employees are given greater support across various aspects.

Known as the SIT Staff Well-Being Framework, it features four main pillars: providing care for staff well-being; nurturing personal and professional growth; providing a supportive environment; and fostering a collaborative and enterprising culture.

The framework will focus on three core areas – mental, physical and social well-being. The aim is to cultivate an ecosystem of support, recognition and values to drive employee engagement and potential.

SIT unveiled the Well-Being Framework at its inaugural Staff Well-Being Day on May 19, 2022.

Themed “Resilience and Me”, the events of the day focused on the importance of building resilience through maintaining one’s well-being to manage change and cope with challenges.



01 SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing joins the staff at the University’s first Staff Well-Being Day.

02 All smiles at the Staff Well-Being Day, which features games and prizes such as vouchers to be won.



7 July Hot Trend, Cool Move

SIT teamed up with ENGIE to jointly develop a district cooling centre of excellence in Singapore. The Memorandum of Understanding with ENGIE, a leader in low-carbon energy and services, was signed on July 7, 2022.

The ENGIE-SIT District Cooling Centre of Excellence will be located in SIT's new campus in Punggol. It aims to spur innovation in cooling solutions across the region.

If designed well, district cooling systems can save 30 per cent or more in energy consumption, said Thomas Baudlot, ENGIE CEO, Energy Solutions, and Country Head for Southeast Asia.

“Our relationship with SIT will not only allow us to train the future generation of engineers on this cornerstone technology for the region’s energy transition but also to perfect it through a joint applied R&D effort,” he added.

With the partnership, SITizens can look forward to local work attachments and commercial development opportunities with ENGIE.



Our relationship with SIT will not only allow us to train the future generation of engineers on this cornerstone technology for the region’s energy transition but also to perfect it through a joint applied R&D effort.

Thomas Baudlot

CEO, Energy Solutions and Country Head for Southeast Asia, ENGIE



Putting individuals at the heart of everything we do means adopting a learner-first approach, and making sure our curriculum is kept up to date with industry demands.

Mr Bill Chang

Chairman of SIT Board of Trustees (2022 – Present)

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9 September Teaming Up To Tackle Healthcare Challenges

To nurture a future-ready healthcare workforce, SIT extended its partnership with SingHealth by another five years to 2026.

The new Memorandum of Understanding was announced at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Education Conference on September 9, 2022, where Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State for Health and Communications and Information, was the guest of honour.

It paves the way for SIT and SingHealth, partners since 2016, to drive new innovations and advance practice-oriented healthcare education for students.

New interdisciplinary initiatives would support crucial areas of healthcare in view of Singapore's rapidly ageing population.

SIT and SingHealth will also co-develop healthcare innovations, including a co-shared "living laboratory" in the Punggol Campus to facilitate innovation design, prototyping and testing.

02



- 01 Thumbs up to a new chapter of partnership between SIT and SingHealth!
- 02 Then-Chief Executive of SingHealth Dr Ivy Ng and SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing ink the agreement to bring the partnership between both institutions to the next level.





12 October A Graduation Ceremony Of Many Firsts

Among the bumper crop of SIT graduates in 2022, one name stood out.

Dr Ng Yat Chung, founding Chairman of its Board of Trustees, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters – making him SIT’s first honorary graduate. Dr Ng, who assumed the role in 2009 and stepped down in 2022, oversaw the growth and development of SIT as Singapore’s first university of applied learning.

Over three days from October 12 to 14, more than 2,200 graduates received their scrolls. The graduation ceremony, graced by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, also welcomed the inaugural batch of graduates from several degree programmes: Air Transport Management; the Master of Science in Civil Engineering; and the SIT-University of Glasgow joint degree programmes in Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Computing Science.



01 A time of celebration as Mr Bill Chang, Chairman of SIT’s Board of Trustees, (left) confers the University’s first Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters to Dr Ng Yat Chung (right). Dr Ng had served as SIT’s first Chairman of the Board of Trustees for more than 12 years.

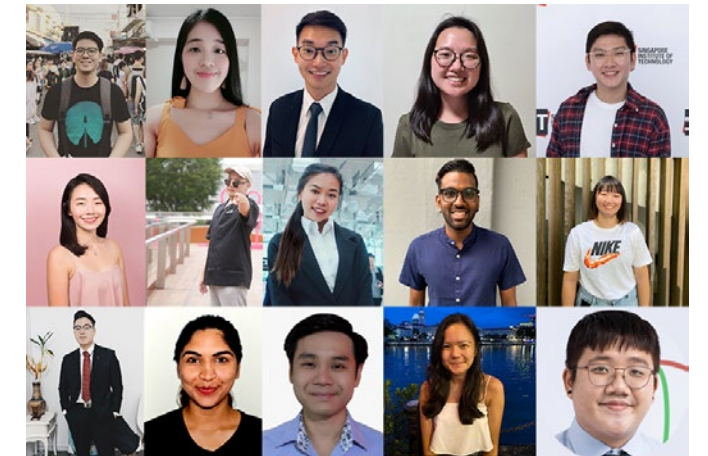
26 September Class Of 2022 Gives Back

Grateful for their time in SIT, 30 students from its class of 2022 decided to pay it forward by launching an annual fundraising drive.

Called Class Giving, it encourages each graduating cohort to make a collective gift in support of their juniors.

The donations support the SIT Bursary, which is valued at \$3,000 each and defrays the cost-of-living expenses and tuition fees for students who require financial aid.

In all, 231 donors from the class of 2022 raised \$9,000, setting a fine example for subsequent cohorts.



💰 **\$9k** funds raised

👤 **231** donors





28 November

The New Future Of Work With Stackable Micro-credentials

Working adults can now brush up their skills in the information and communications technology sector via a new pathway at SIT.

The pilot programme, known as the Competency-based Stackable Micro-credential (CSM) pathway, would allow them to earn qualifications in specific topics, such as cybersecurity, that can stack up to an SIT degree. The micro-credentials will be offered through SIT's Bachelor of Science with Honours in Applied Computing, and may be expanded to more degree programmes in the future.

To do so, SIT inked a Memorandum of Understanding with six partners on September 28, 2022 – three industry players (NCS, Singtel and Singapore Computer Society) and three polytechnics (Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic).

Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing said at the signing ceremony: "The CSM is the first of its kind to be offered through a collaboration between an Autonomous University in Singapore and the polytechnics. Such just-in-time and flexible learning supplements existing recruitment, retention and upskilling efforts – and will be key to the future of work."

01 The CSM pathway is a critical development to enable people and industries to stay relevant, says Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing.



2023:

The Final Push to Punggol

It is not every day that Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing makes a speech wearing a bright yellow high-visibility vest and a white safety helmet.

But he donned them for a special occasion to mark SIT's topping out ceremony – a tradition at construction sites to celebrate project milestones – for its new campus at the PDD.

"I am very happy to see that it has adhered to the basic philosophy of how we want this building to be integrated with the rest of the community, with the industry, and also to allow the cross-pollination of ideas across different disciplines and different sectors," said Mr Chan on May 22, 2023.

Indeed, the Punggol Campus, nestled within Singapore's much-touted first digital district, is designed to facilitate such dynamic exchanges. Under SIT's Living Labs Initiative, students and faculty will jointly develop, test and implement research ideas with industry and government partners in real-world settings.

Strategic agreements with two global tech giants, Oracle and Salesforce, lay out the blueprint for such tie-ups, which will further enhance SIT's applied learning pedagogy and research capabilities.

The SIT-Oracle Living Lab will feature a dynamic digital "sandbox" platform where SIT students, researchers and industry partners can team up to create business solutions and innovation, leveraging Oracle's expertise and technologies.

Meanwhile, the SIT-Salesforce Learning Lab will train up to 50 SIT students per academic year to develop applications and prototypes for social service agencies. It will be the first learning lab in the Asia Pacific region for Salesforce, which specialises in customer relationship management software.

SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing said at the topping out ceremony: "The move to Punggol presents many opportunities for SIT to differentiate and strengthen our education offerings. Our Living Labs represent our commitment to transform learning by amplifying the capabilities of our students, faculty and researchers."

Comprising two plots – Campus Heart and Campus Court – SIT's new 9 ha home will house 10 buildings, including one called The Hatchery that serves to facilitate cross-campus collaborations between academia and industry.

With just about one-third of the construction work still to go, planning for the big move is in full swing. Over 9,000 students, along with staff across SIT's six satellite campuses, will move to their new home in phases – just in time for the new academic year in September 2024. The countdown has begun.





As Singapore's University of Applied Learning, SIT has grown from strength to strength in nurturing an industry-ready workforce to drive Singapore's future growth.

Professor Chua Kee Chaing

President of SIT (2022 – Present)



6 January
Learning Through
A Mix Of Work And Study

To further boost students' job readiness, SIT has launched a new pathway called Term-In Term-Out (TITO) for some degree programmes in emerging sectors.

Under this scheme, students from Applied Computing (with Fintech specialisation), Digital Supply Chain, and Robotics Systems will split their time between the University and the workplace every year.

By the end of their undergraduate studies, they would have spent nearly half of their time learning at the workplace without extending the duration of their degree programme.

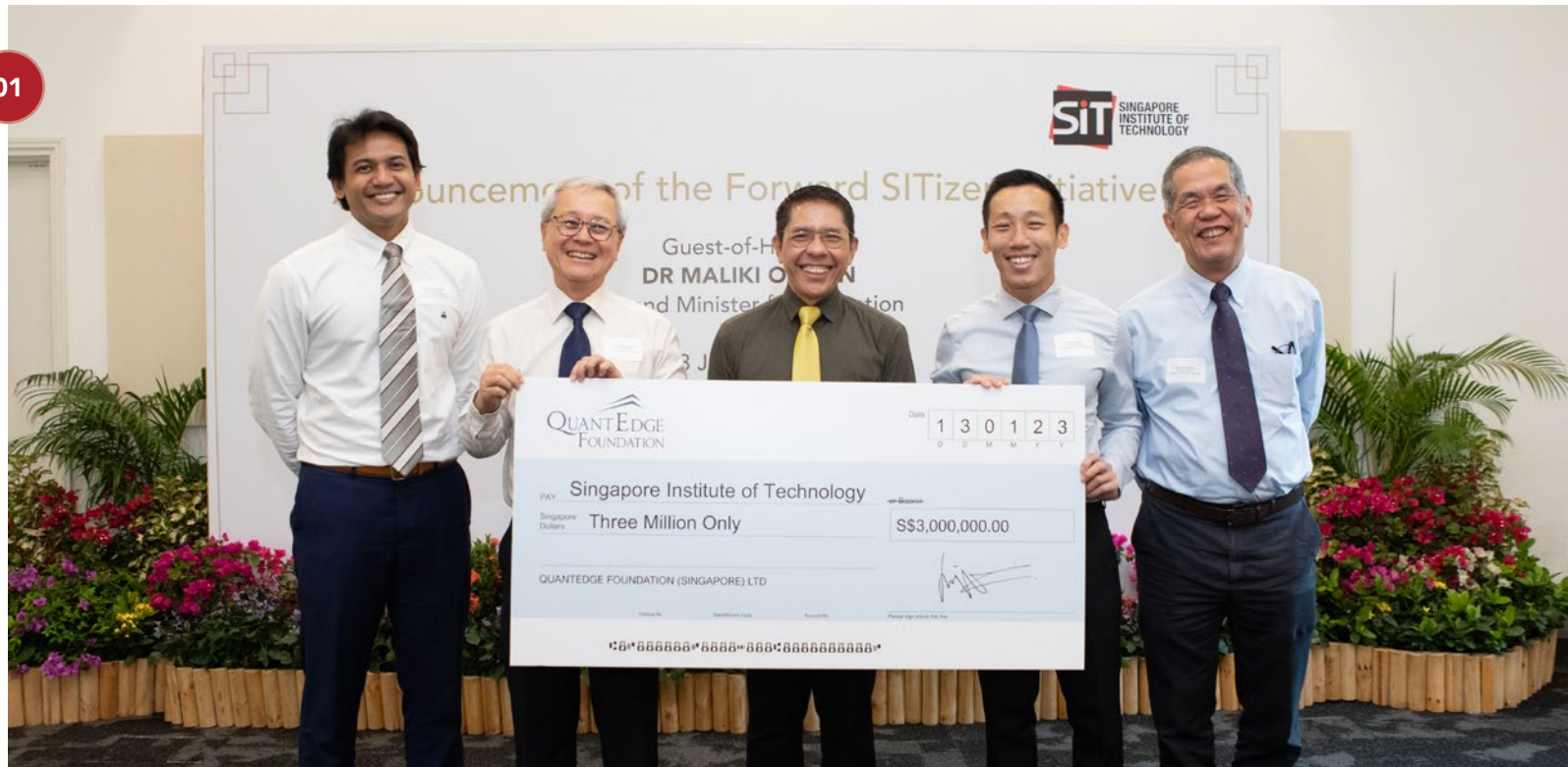
SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing said: "The TITO pathway exemplifies the foundation of our applied learning pedagogy that is 'learning by doing', and we believe that this will give students a stronger head-start to the working world by exposing them to the latest industry developments, business intricacies and work cultures."



01 SIT inks Memoranda of Understanding with six financial institutions and one tech services provider to develop initiatives to support pre-employment training and continuing education and training.



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12 January Launch of 'Forward SITizen' Initiative

Financially needy students can access more aid under a new SIT initiative launched on January 12.

Called Forward SITizen Initiative (FSI), it fully subsidises tuition fees for Singaporean undergraduates who meet several criteria, such as those whose monthly household per capita income does not exceed \$690. Some 220 students will be eligible each year.

As of January 2023, six donors have pledged \$8.7 million to the scheme, including a \$3 million seed donation from charity group Quantedge Foundation. The other benefactors pledged endowed gifts through Dou Yee Enterprises Bursary, Kewalram Chanrai Group Bursary, KKH Bursary, Kwai Fong & Raymond Goh Study Grant, and Wilmar Bursary.

FSI echoes the Forward Singapore road map launched by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in June 2022, which charts a path towards a more equitable Singapore.

- 🇸🇬 **\$8.7m** pledged
- 👥 **220** eligible each year

- 01 The Forward SITizen initiative got off to a great start with a \$3 million seed donation from charity group Quantedge Foundation.
- 02 Dr Maliki Osman, Second Minister for Education, addresses the audience at the launch of Forward SITizen.



3 February

HDB Flat On Campus

SIT will soon get its own showflat at its upcoming Punggol Campus.

But the unit, which is designed to look like the interior of a HDB flat, serves an educational purpose rather than residential needs.

Called the Lim Leng Swan Home Living Lab, it will be used for case simulation to give SIT's Allied Health and Nursing students a better grasp of the living conditions of the elderly or those who are physically impaired.

Built with a \$500,000 donation from the Diana Koh Foundation, the living lab is named after Ms Koh's late mother, a trained nurse. It serves as a reminder of the legacy of Singapore's pioneer nurses. Ms Koh, who died in 2019 at the age of 56, was a veteran in the accounting and advisory field who willed her estate to charitable organisations.

💰 **\$500k donation**

🏠 **Case simulation
for elderly
and physically
impaired patients**





28 March SIT Spills The Beans

Behind every milestone is a story. And to capture these behind-the-scenes tales, SIT launched its first Culture Handbook on March 28.

The day also marks SIT Day, which commemorates the institute becoming an Autonomous University. The handbook was distributed electronically across the board to staff and executive management.

Curated by University Librarian Joan Wee and Senior Manager in the Office of the President Stephanie Peh, the 24-page handbook charts the University's growth through the years and showcases its core values of purpose and agility, respect and sustainability, and integrity and excellence.

Explaining the rationale behind the book, SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing said: "Culture is extremely important because it will drive the organisation. Developing our culture anchored on our core values requires very deliberate efforts over a period of time – to enable everyone in SIT to understand what our core values mean fully, internalise them, and act them out in our daily interactions with one another and in performing our duties."



JOURNEY IN BUILDING SIT'S CULTURE

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PROFESSOR CHUA KEE CHANG
SIT PRESIDENT

CULTURE — THE 'GLUE' THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER

Management consultant Peter Drucker famously said, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast."

Likewise, SIT's management understands the importance of culture in reaching organisational goals. An organisation could have the finest statements of strategy plans and goals, but they can easily be superseded by a disruptive or counter-productive work culture.

Culture is the "glue" that holds everything together — it serves to motivate people to have a shared common vision about the institution they work for.

CLEAR PURPOSE AND STRONG VALUES

As we discuss culture, it is useful to refer to SIT's mission.

To maximise the potential of our learners and to innovate with industry, through an integrated applied learning and research approach, so as to contribute to the economy and society.

What differentiates SIT from its counterparts is that its mission extends beyond the organisation. We are in the business of nurturing the next generation of learners. Our students will attain a holistic education with skills and values that can lead to open-mindedness and allow them to contribute to the economy and society well into the future.

Understanding this purpose gives meaning to the work we do. In fact, several decades in this handbook reveal that it is this noble calling that drove many of us to SIT in the first place.

How do we then ensure that everyone works for the collective progress? We

ASPIRE

PURPOSE AND AGILITY

We are purposeful and united in delivering on our mission. We are agile in responding to disruptions and opportunities.

RESPECT AND SUSTAINABILITY

We respect one another and are open to a diversity of views. We promote sustainability in our lifestyle and operations, education and research endeavours.

INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE

We maintain a high level of professional integrity at all times. We strive for excellence in all that we do.

A Page for Everyone to Fill

With Associate Professor Alfred Tan, Engineering Cluster

CREATING A CULTURE OF FUN AT WORK

I really value the planning that goes into social activities with colleagues. When I joined SIT, I took on a full-time teaching role — it was my first. Before that, I had focused mostly on research work. I had gotten married around the same time. So, you could say I've seen how SIT progressed through the years and I have also grown along with the institution. In fact, I received my 10-year long service award in 2021. And I am proud to have been a Culture Advocate for SIT since 2017.

Personally, I love to immerse myself in the culture of a place, so I can get a real sense of the people and their environment. I find that the work culture here is really fun. Especially when we get to be part of making new things. It is great to unleash, enjoy the company of colleagues, and take a break from thinking about our 9/5.

For instance, it helps if I know the person well, and it is usually easier to build better rapport with our colleagues in our work settings.

When you know your colleagues well, you build trust and don't treat them as strangers to reach 9/5. Instead, you might see a working mum, a fatherly figure, or just a friendly face you see many more faces of a person.

There is a good reason for strengthening this connection. While we work independently on our projects and tasks, many a time we do need to depend on others for help, resources support and help. If I approach someone for assistance,

they will naturally seize opportunities to work together — exemplifying the collaborative nature of SIT's culture. We can create culture events for people to come and do things together.

When it comes to planning culture events, we can afford to be really creative. With so many talented faculty and corporate staff who specialise in so many varied disciplines, such as social media, we can make even more special by pooling our ideas and expertise.

For instance, instead of relying on external vendors and organising an event from scratch, why not use existing programming and the strengths and talents of fellow colleagues to make the events unique? We can even save from the food and technology programme reports to advise us on the menu. We can include healthier options like fruit and veggie platters in the menu.

In addition, we could get staff to take part in making the menu. It was through one such event that I met the staff who were making the menu. It was a good engagement opportunity because aside from having fun, we also learnt from one another.

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

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they will naturally seize opportunities to work together — exemplifying the collaborative nature of SIT's culture. We can create culture events for people to come and do things together.

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When you know someone well, you will naturally think of them in terms of their interests.



14 April Driving Smart Solutions At PDD

Tenants in the upcoming PDD will be able to work with SIT to scale smart solutions.

SIT announced its partnership with PDD developer JTC Corporation at the PDD Connecting Smartness 2023 event on April 14.

Under the PDD Living Lab Programme, SIT and like-minded partners can share research capabilities and talent resources to meet three aims: develop a pipeline of future-ready tech talents; provide opportunities for co-innovation and test-bedding; and drive entrepreneurship.

To facilitate such collaborations, SIT also inked Memoranda of Understanding at the event with partners such as UOB, Target Media Culcreative, Wanxiang Blockchain and dConstruct Robotics.

SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing said at the event: "SIT's co-location with industry in PDD will facilitate a strong academia-industry nexus, which is at the heart of our applied learning pedagogy. The PDD Living Lab programme will enable SIT students to collaborate closely with industry partners and work on cutting-edge technological solutions."

- 01 The PDD Living Lab Programme will gather partners from diverse sectors to innovate and testbed new ideas alongside SIT and JTC.
- 02 Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong (fourth from left), Mr Ronnie Tay, SIT's Deputy President (Administration) and Chief Financial Officer (second from left) and Mr Bernard Nee, SIT's Deputy President (Industry & Community) (fourth from right) with industry partners from the finance, tech and media sectors.
- 03 Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong congratulates JTC, SIT and various partners for bringing the PDD to life.





SIT did not start off with a campus. SIT has been a virtue out of necessity, by building on the connections with all the polytechnics. Thus, my second wish is that even as SIT has its own campus in time to come, I hope that SIT will never forgo the linkages that you have so painstakingly built up in the past, with the polytechnics and the many other institutions.

This is what makes SIT stand out as a university that is fully connected to all polytechnics and other institutions beyond SIT. I am confident that the current and future generations of leaders in SIT will treasure these links.

Mr Chan Chun Sing

Minister for Education (2021 – Present)

22 May

A New Home Awaits

As the last structural beam at its new home fell into place, SITizens moved one step closer to coming under one roof.

At the topping out ceremony held at the Punggol site on May 22, SIT President Professor Chua Kee Chaing said: “We are very excited about this impending move not just because this will be a beautiful new campus, but also because the whole of SIT will be together in one location for the first time.”

Currently based in six separate campuses across the five polytechnics and its headquarters in Dover Drive, the SIT family will move in phases to the Punggol Campus, which can accommodate 12,000 students. Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing said at the topping out ceremony that SIT “will become a central part of the Punggol Digital District”.



Guest-of-Honour:
Mr Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Education

2023



Guest-of-Honour:
Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Education

Journey to Punggol 165



20 July
**Never Too Old
To Learn At STLA**

Working adults looking to upgrade their skills will soon be able to do so faster, thanks to a new SIT initiative.

The SIT Teaching and Learning Academy (STLA), launched at SIT's fourth Applied Learning Conference, aims to bolster the University's efforts in competency-based education. This recognises mastery of skills rather than just paper qualifications.

STLA will adopt a novel approach called Recognition of Prior Learning, which acknowledges past credentials, industry certifications or work experience so learners can attain degrees in a shorter time.

Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing described STLA as "a significant step towards building new capabilities in our adult learning and education landscape".



STLA allows us to move beyond a degree-centric assessment model and helps learners embark on more meaningful career pathways that are intertwined with learning.

Mr Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Education (2021 – Present)



While we can prepare a cohort of 40,000 students to graduate from university every year, we need to retrain 400,000 to 500,000 adult learners to be current and relevant to market needs. I hope that SIT can take in a good proportion of these adult learners. If we can do that, SIT will not just be an institute of higher learning, but it will be an institute of continuous learning.

Mr Chan Chun Sing
Minister for Education (2021 – Present)





2024:

Building Tomorrow, Today

After almost 10 years in the making, SIT's permanent campus was finally unveiled to the public.

Dotted with trees and open spaces, the new centralised campus in the PDD – aptly termed “campus-in-a-park” – is alive in more ways than one. Greenery adds a touch of the verdant to angular buildings; solar panels glint on the rooftops, feeding electricity back into the University’s private microgrid.

Its ideascapes also thrum with life. Built on a “living lab” concept, the University is a test-bed for new prototypes and solutions generated at the intersection of academia and industry. This effort is aimed at transforming Singapore into a thriving innovation hub.



Collaboration with industry partners has already begun. For instance, SIT is working with cyber intelligence firm Group IB to design and engineer virtual testing environments for start-ups looking to fend off cyberattacks. Group IB is part of the first batch of four international firms to set up shop in the PDD, alongside Boston Dynamics, Delta Electronics Int'l (Singapore), and Wanxiang.

Such projects will only become more common as local and international firms take root in the PDD. As Singapore's first university of applied learning, SIT will benefit greatly from the surrounding industry network – and, in turn, generate solutions to benefit both its neighbours and industry-at-large.

But it's not just industry partners who are making an impact – so are philanthropists like Mr Kwek Leng Beng, the property tycoon who donated \$24 million to SIT in 2023. This donation was matched by the government, bringing the total SIT endowment to \$60 million.

"Through this SIT donation, I am privileged to play a part in building future generations of talent and professionals for Singapore, especially in hospitality," said Mr Kwek at the event to announce his donation, which also saw the unveiling of a Lego model of a new administrative building. The model was built by SIT students.

In appreciation of Mr Kwek's endowed gift, SIT has named the new administrative building – which will house academic and administrative staff – the Kwek Leng Beng University Tower.

💰 \$60m endowment

01 The Punggol Campus is envisioned as a "living lab" that integrates applied research and innovation for SIT and its partners.

It certainly is a step up from the University's humble beginnings as a distributed campus spread out across Singapore.

Without a doubt, SIT has come a long way since its establishment in 2009. What began as an effort to give more polytechnic graduates the opportunity to further their education evolved into Singapore's first university of applied learning.

Over the years, deep bonds with industry have also been forged, giving rise to innovative solutions that have been taken to market.

As SIT continues to make its mark in Singapore and the world, one thing is clear: all learners are welcome. The University has always been a champion of lifelong learning, and is a pioneer of closely linking education to industry needs to help learners gain relevant skills.

SIT will continue to shape the future of work and skills at its new Punggol Campus. As it heads into a new decade, it's time to write the next chapter.

01 Artist's impression of the Canopy Walk, a link bridge that spans two academic blocks.

02 Artist's impression of the food court in SIT's Punggol Campus.





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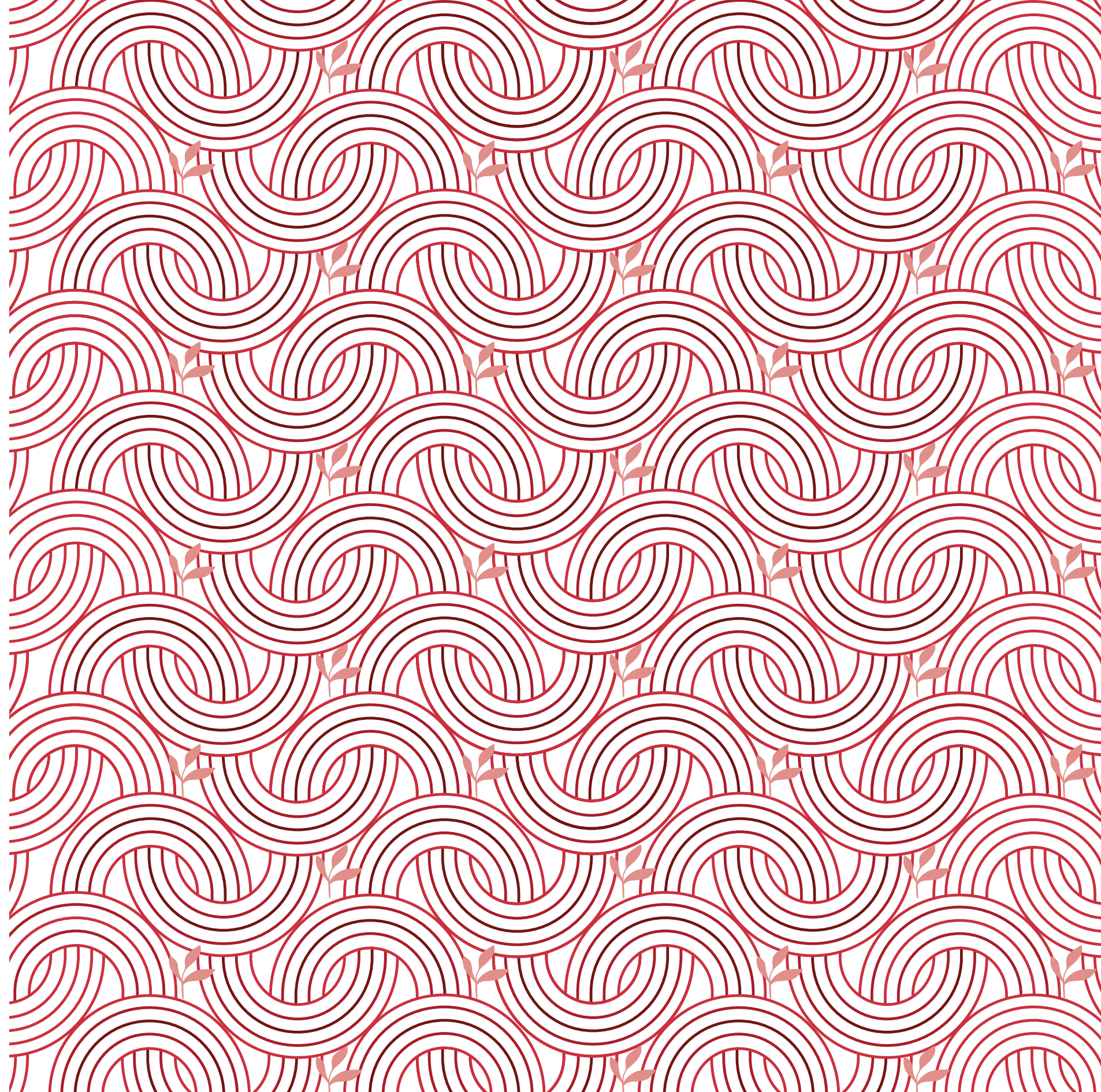
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The intricately woven loops on the opposite page symbolise the collaborative relationship that the Singapore Institute of Technology shares with its SITizens and the wider community. The botanical motif is a tribute to the lush greenery that forms the backdrop of the Punggol Campus.



Celebrating a decade of growth and innovation

When the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) became an Autonomous University in 2014, it had an ambitious goal — to pioneer a new approach to higher education, one that would combine academic knowledge and skills with real-world applications in the industry. In a world that was rapidly evolving and increasingly complex, SIT needed to give its students the knowledge, skills, and tools to thrive.

A decade on, SIT's model of applied learning has borne fruit. Its degrees are sought after, just as its graduates are. SIT is now Singapore's third-largest Autonomous University by undergraduate student intake, and more than 90 per cent of its students find employment within six months of graduation.

As the University celebrates a decade of growth, this book looks back at the journey of setting up Singapore's first university of applied learning, and chronicles the memorable milestones of the last 10 years.