

# Chairman's Message

I am pleased to present this year's annual report, themed "**Deepening Applied Learning**", which has been the main strategic focus for SIT. I am happy to note that we have made good strides in strengthening our education and research offerings in financial year (FY) 2022.

## SUPPORTING SINGAPORE'S GOALS

SIT aligns itself with Singapore's national goals in the education sector, supporting the development of a skilled workforce, driving innovation and economic growth, and promoting Singapore as an education hub. Through our programmes and collaborations, we remain dedicated to enhancing applied learning experiences, driving innovation, and empowering learners for success in an ever-changing world. According to the **2021 Graduate Employment Survey**, 95.6% of SIT graduates secured a job within 6 months of completing their studies, with starting salaries that exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

As a testament to our efficacy, SIT's student enrolment has been growing year by year. I am pleased to note that we

now have an annual intake of over 3,000 and an enrolment of over 9,000 undergraduates, making us the third-largest autonomous university in Singapore by undergraduate student intake. These outcomes are a testament that we are on the right track. We have continued this momentum and continually updated our educational offerings.

## DEEPENING EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS

SIT places a strong emphasis on experiential learning through solving real-world problems. In other words, our education goes beyond earning a degree — it is also about developing skills that are relevant to industries and backed by deep disciplinary knowledge.

Our undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes are designed with this aim in mind. In FY2022, we expanded our academic offerings for both the pre-employment training (PET) and continuing education and training (CET) sectors to bring the benefits of our pedagogy to even more learners. Our signature **Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP)** gives students valuable learning opportunities and enhances their employability in an increasingly competitive workforce. To date, about 1,000 companies and agencies partner with SIT to provide placements for our students.

Beyond IWSP, our **Term-In Term-Out (TITO)** programmes are also gaining traction. TITO offers students the option of alternating between the University and the workplace as they complete their degree, providing valuable industry exposure. It also augments students' learning experiences and distinguishes SIT as a university where learning comes to life. Thanks to companies such as AIA, DBS, Infosys, OCBC, Prudential, Standard Chartered Bank, ST Logistics, UOB and YCH, students on the TITO pathway are spending substantially more time in industry.

Even as we continue to develop and expand our programmes, we must pay attention to the broader educational landscape. In keeping with the Ministry of Education's focus on strengthening lifelong learning by moving to a lifetime cohort participation rate of 60% by 2025, we continue to enhance our CET offerings to cater to working adults who wish to upskill and gain new capabilities in the workplace.

Our dedicated unit for lifelong learning, **SITLEARN Professional Development**, has been hard at work rolling out courses for adult learners. In 2022, more than 4,000 CET training places were made available. During the year, we



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partnered with companies like semiconductor equipment manufacturer Applied Materials to future-proof their staff's capabilities in emerging technologies. Over 200 Applied Materials employees were trained in areas such as data analytics, AI and the Internet of Things.

A notable CET initiative is the provision of practice workshops to prepare rehab healthcare professionals to carry out the objectives of the National One-Rehab Framework. In FY2022, SIT trained over 500 allied health and rehab professionals from over 30 healthcare and community institutions, including the National Healthcare Group, SingHealth, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, and St Luke's Hospital. Through this programme, the participants understand how to apply the One-Rehab Framework in their rehabilitation practice so that their patients have timely access to the right level of care.

At SIT, we understand that industry needs are always evolving. Our education and training programmes seek to evolve along with changing industry needs and equip learners with skills that are applicable and relevant. For example, we have rolled out the **Competency-based Stackable Micro-credentials (CSM) pathway** to support working adults to upskill. Such a competency-based approach accelerates their professional development. The delivery, which is a blend of both face-to-face and asynchronous learning, balances between empowering the learners to learn at their own pace and the benefits of in-person and group learning. We continue to engage the industry in the design and delivery of the programme to ensure that the micro-credentials are aligned with market needs and reflect the latest trends and technologies.

To ensure that our educational offerings make a difference in the real world, we continue to push for progress on the applied research front. We work closely with educational institutions in Singapore, such as the other autonomous universities and 5 polytechnics, and industry to achieve research outcomes that matter to businesses. Some of our partners include global companies such as Cargill, ConveGenius, DNV, Meinhardt and Yinson Holdings, as well as universities such as Japan's Tohoku University, the Technical University of Munich and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Crucially, such partnerships also enable us to provide our students with authentic learning experiences in areas such as sustainability, digitalisation, food security, community healthcare and more. These are critical areas of development for Singapore.

## DEEPENING IMPACT ON INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

We believe that collaboration with industry is at the heart of applied learning. As such, SIT weaves collaboration with industry partners seamlessly and intentionally into all aspects of our applied learning and research activities.

I am heartened that we have continued to grow our network of industry partners in FY2022. We have signed numerous memoranda of understanding and forged research collaborations in multiple areas. These will go a long way towards building a strong academia-industry

nexus and creating opportunities for work attachments, research and other joint initiatives for our students to develop the necessary skills to excel.

Our commitment to our student community, as well as the community at large, is also a big part of who we are. Students are at the core of SIT's mission, and their success and personal growth are key elements of the SIT experience. In FY2022, we remained committed to fostering an inclusive and conducive campus environment, with comprehensive support services available for students should they need it.

This past year, the University actively engaged with the community, working with local organisations and community partners to craft outreach programmes to help individuals and communities. For example, SIT co-produced the Tech for Good 2022 competition to provide students with the opportunity to contribute to vulnerable communities. A student team from SIT designed a device that enables wheelchair users to snap photographs using a motorised arm. Another SIT team modified the bowling ramp to make it easier and more interactive for those with cerebral palsy to bowl.

Our upcoming SIT Punggol Campus will be critical to our engagement efforts. The campus will be co-located in the Punggol Digital District alongside enterprises and is specifically designed to enable intermingling between industry and academia. This serves to strengthen the bond between academia and industry, and foster opportunities for collaboration through the exchange of workspaces and mutual flow of ideas.

We will become the resident university in the North-East region, occupying an important place in the local ecosystem as a knowledge hub. I believe that our state-of-the-art facilities and expertise in STEM education will prove an invaluable resource to residents in the area. As we share our resources and contribute towards shoring up the knowledge base of the community, our staff and students will have the opportunities to put their academic knowledge and industry proficiency to good use in giving back to the community.

## FORGING AHEAD

As we turn to the future, SIT will continue to redefine the higher education landscape and build upon our applied learning pedagogy to achieve leadership in this key front. Even as we build on our successes, we must continue to adapt to a changing global environment and keep forging strategic partnerships with industry.

With the support of our staff and partners, including the Ministry of Education, polytechnics, overseas universities, industry partners, government agencies and community leaders, I am confident that SIT will continue to thrive and differentiate itself as Singapore's premier university of applied learning.

## MR BILL CHANG

*Chairman*