

MEDIA RELEASE

NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC A PLAYGROUND FOR STARTUPS

Smart eating places, digital certificates and intelligent mentor matching among smart initiatives to transform campus

Singapore, 23 May 2017 – Makan and milo without taking out your wallet. That's a mealtime that Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students now enjoy.

In line with the national push towards a Smart Nation, the polytechnic is embracing technology designed to enrich living and learning on campus. NP started Campus Ecosystem, a programme that aims to have 100 startups. Since its inception in March this year, 12 startups have come on board. The programme focuses on four areas of innovation – Student Life, Teaching & Learning, Work Culture, and Work Processes. NP is also partnering several startups to introduce the digitalisation of campus food spots and career management services for its 15,000 student population.

NP is working with United Overseas Bank (UOB) and its network of customers and strategic partners like LiquidPay for a cashless payment system, and Attores to issue digital certificates to authenticate a student's qualification quickly and easily. NP is also working with CISCO, GLINTS, Green Koncepts, Protégé and SingTel on several campus solutions.

On the importance of working with startups to create a future-ready campus, NP's Principal, Clarence Ti, said: "We're excited that NP can act as a test bed for these new innovations. The startups we work with aim to deeply enhance students' and staff's campus experience, in and out of class. As we've seen, the changes don't have to be drastic. Often, little conveniences have the greatest impact."

Ms Janet Young, Head of Group Channels and Digitalisation, UOB, said, "Many organisations are looking to use technology to improve their operations, and the right business partner for their specific needs. We believe that through our network of customers and FinTech partnerships, we can connect organisations to the best partner to help them achieve their digitalisation objectives. Whether it is being able to spend less time queueing up and more time enjoying a meal or applying for their next course

or first job with ease, we hope that these initiatives will help enhance the experience for NP's students."

Eat Smart

For starters, students and staff are now able to purchase meals without the need for cash. NP is piloting the move to cashless canteens starting with one of its canteens, Munch. Through LiquidPay's technology, students and staff can create and top up e-wallets with their existing banking cards. Payment may be made by snapping a shot of the QR code placed at each counter.

The NP population can also enjoy another cashless system under SingTel's Dash app. All they need to do is conveniently tap and pay¹ for their meals with the app that supports in-store and online retail payments, as well as transit payments. Singtel Dash accounts can be topped up via eNets, Singtel bill or at AXS and 7-Eleven outlets.

Additionally, a new Smart Crowd Sensing technology by CISCO and GreenKoncepts now leverages Wi-Fi to estimate how crowded the canteens are. Using an online dashboard with informative graphics and user-friendly tags such as "Comfy", "Busy" and "Crowded", students get an overview of the crowd across all four canteens on the go via NP's mobile student app.

Learn Smart

NP students will get digital certificates to speed up their career and university applications. NP is working with UOB FinLab's blockchain startup, Attores, to deploy its Diploma Plus Certificates directly to the students' LinkedIn profiles. This is a first among the local polytechnics.

The technology makes it easy for prospective employers or university admissions office to validate the authenticity of the certificate. If the pilot is successful, the plan is to extend it to all of NP's Diploma Certificates, accessible via a blockchain browser online.

Match Smart

NP students can match with industry mentors online. This convenience is all thanks to a pilot project with Protégé, which has developed a mentoring app to help students under NP's Industry Mentors Network programme.

The app gradually builds up a mentor's profile by getting to know them better, facilitating mentor-mentee matching based on learning outcomes and chemistry fit. It also tracks

¹ Tap and Pay function is available on devices with NFC capabilities. Customers with non-NFC devices can key in counter codes in the Singtel Dash app to make purchases

the engagements between them for constant feedback on the progress of the relationship.

Other smart career management initiatives include NP@GLINTS platform which enable students to source and curate a customised internship preference for multiple internships.

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About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Inaugurated in 1963 as Ngee Ann College with only 116 students, Ngee Ann Polytechnic is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with about 15,000 full-time students, 2,000 part-time students and an alumni community of over 130,000.

The polytechnic offers 49 full-time courses through its nine academic schools - School of Business & Accountancy, School of Design & Environment, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology. Ngee Ann supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy which offers a wide range of part-time programmes. The Polytechnic has also established two Centres of Innovation - in Environmental & Water Technology and Marine & Offshore Technology - to work on collaborative research and technology projects.

Learning takes place amid a caring and conducive environment with top-notch facilities ranging from broadcast, multimedia and animation studios to research laboratories as well as simulation and technology centres. With our emphasis on a broad-based education, coupled with our signature Service-Learning pedagogy and global exposure,

Ngee Ann Polytechnic's vision is to prepare graduates with a passion for learning, values for life and competencies to thrive in a global workplace.

For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg.