FINTECH HUBS SINGAPORE AND LONDON BOOST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR REGIONS WITH LAUNCH OF AI PROGRAMME IN FINANCE
- By Industry Professionals for Industry Professionals -

Singapore's Ngee Ann Polytechnic and London's Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship (CFTE) launches AI in Finance (AIF), an online programme by industry professionals for industry professionals.

Singapore, 24 April 2018 – Imagine having your bank loan approved within a minute. Or if you're a finance professional, how about having a virtual assistant to plough through tons of financial data to decide which investment would yield a better return? These scenarios are not too far from reality, thanks to advances in artificial intelligence (AI) in the finance arena. Globally, the immense potential of AI applications, which could change radically the way the financial sector works, is getting everyone excited yet concerned about how AI may impact jobs and their organisations.

Despite the growing awareness of AI technology, many finance professionals are still unfamiliar with its impact on the industry. To give these professionals a good grasp of the emerging technologies that are shaping their industry's future, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), one of Singapore's leading institutes of higher learning, is partnering with

London-based Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship (CFTE) to launch the AI in Finance (AIF) course.

Through this course, both NP and CFTE hope to support and to nurture talent in fintech and to boost fintech development in their respective regions and around the world.

As Singapore's SkillsFuture[1] sector coordinator in financial services, NP has been actively seeking opportunities to collaborate with renowned partners to co-develop fintech courses. Its Principal Mr Clarence Ti said, "AI is a technological driving force that no industry can ignore. Some studies estimate that about 50 per cent of today's tasks would be assisted by AI in the next 20 years. With Singapore and London gaining recognition as leading fintech hubs of the world, it is timely for NP and CFTE to launch an industry-led course that provides finance professionals and others a practical guide to AI."

Added Mr Huy Nguyen Trieu, co-founder of CFTE, "CFTE addresses the needs of professionals in finance and technologists to upskill in a rapidly changing industry being transformed by emerging technologies. Our objective is to equip students with the right skills to thrive in a world of

---

[1] SkillsFuture is a national movement to provide Singaporeans with the opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points. Through this movement, the skills, passion and contributions of every individual will drive Singapore's next phase of development towards an advanced economy and inclusive society.

digital finance, and artificial intelligence is one of the single most important drivers transforming finance."

Two leading banks in Singapore come on board as anchor sponsors for AIF.

Ahead of its official launch, AIF has received positive support from Singapore's banking sector. Two local banks have come on board as anchor sponsors for this programme.

Committing up to 1,000 training places, OCBC Bank is keen to equip its employees with skills that are relevant to the future economy and sees AI as an increasingly important area for banking.

"Thanks to our pool of skilled employees, OCBC Bank has successfully rolled out initiatives like AI-powered chatbots Emma, for home loans, and Buddy, for employee's HR-related queries. The AIF programme will help us build on our AI-edge by equipping more staff with such skillsets that are relevant to the future of banking," said Ms Yap Aye Wee, Head of Learning & Development, Group Human Resources, OCBC Bank.

Ms Jenny Wong, Head of Group Human Resources, United Overseas Bank (UOB) said, "Ensuring that our people have the relevant skillsets and agile mindsets is a priority at UOB. The AIF will complement our suite of training programmes aimed at deepening the digital capabilities of our colleagues. Through the programme, our people will have a deeper understanding of AI in order to harness the technology for enhanced performance and a more instinctive customer experience."

THE PROGRAMME

Value Proposition 1
Over 20 industry insiders and thought leaders, from China to US, from regulators to banks to tech giants to start-ups to venture investors, come together for a practical look at the world of AI in Finance.

The course scours the world to bring together over 20 industry insiders and thought leaders to collaborate on a programme on AI by the industry for the industry. The distinguished faculty comprises Co-Founder and CEO of ADDO.AI Dr Ayesha Khanna (Singapore); Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer at Ping An Technology Mr Jon-Tzen Ng (Shanghai); former global CTO at UBS Dr Stephan Murer (Zurich); and Chief Technology Officer and Chief Data Scientist at Flowcast Inc Dr Winnie Cheng (New York).

Guest speakers include Chief Data Officer of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) Dr David Hardoon (Singapore); CEO of Behavox Mr Erkin Adylov (London); Co-head Global Venture Investing at Citi Ventures Mr Ramneek Gupta (San Francisco); Chief Data Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Mr Shameek Kundu (Singapore); and Vice President Cognitive Solutions at IBM Watson Group Mr Jean-Philippe Desbiolles (Paris) (please refer to Annex A for more details).

Value Proposition 2
Made by professionals for professionals, AIF seeks to impart the fundamentals of AI and share real-life use cases in Finance.

"Although the course is designed to give participants an understanding of the fundamentals of AI, we do not intend it to be a theoretical programme. Instead, it will provide an industry overview of AI, with observations from industry insiders and thought leaders from the US to China," said Mr Patrice Choong, Director for The Sandbox, NP's innovation and enterprise office that is spearheading the joint development of AIF with CFTE.

He added, "Participants will be exposed to industry insights and real-life case studies to ensure that the content is

relatable to them. For example, there are already applications of AI in areas such as insurance, credit scoring and customer service. All these case studies will form part of the course content and discussion."

The course will be conducted entirely online, which allows global participation and the flexibility for busy professionals to complete it in their own time. Comprising 18 modules, the structured programme will cover a wide range of topics, from the basics of AI technology to the implementation of AI at the strategic level. It targets primarily finance professionals including those in capital markets, front-office, compliance, risk management and insurance. It is also applicable to technologists, entrepreneurs, regulators, lawyers, fintech educators, business writers, as well as students from countries across the world including the UK, Singapore and other ASEAN countries.

Value Proposition 3
A fully online programme in 18 modules is an easy rollout for financial institutions seeking to update their staff on AI developments in their industry.

AIF's robust ecosystem not only offers participants access to thought leaders in the industry, AI startups and finance companies that have adopted AI, but also provides potential opportunities in the form of internships and jobs as well as a supportive community that possesses a wealth of knowledge in the financial sector. Post programme, participants may get opportunities to meet up with the featured industry professionals.

Value Proposition 4
Entry into an exclusive AIF community of learners and experts create future opportunities for professionals to network and connect.

The course is accredited by SkillsFuture Singapore and is in the process of obtaining accreditation with The Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore.
Singapore Citizens/ Permanent Residents will enjoy 70% government subsidy for the course fees.

Value Proposition 5
AIF is accredited by SkillsFuture Singapore.

Singapore Citizens & PRs enjoy 70% course fee subsidy.

AIF Starts 24 June 2018

INAUGURAL RUN

AIF will commence its inaugural run on 24 June 2018.

Registration (in Singapore) is now open at aifinance.sg

For registration outside Singapore, please visit

https://www.cfte.education/aifinance

SUMMARY

Singapore's Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and London-based Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship (CFTE) will jointly launch the first industry-led AI in Finance (AIF) online course on June 24, 2018. Over 20 finance and technology thought leaders and insiders will come together to share key fundamentals and real-life case studies on how AI is reshaping the finance industry worldwide. The accredited course updates finance professionals and technologists on the AI revolution and creates an online community of learners and experts in AI to connect and network for future collaborations.

For media queries, please contact:

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Hafeez Sim
Contact Number: +65 6460 6261
Email: sim_hafeez_bin_faisal@np.edu.sg

Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship

Sonoo Dhar
Contact Number: +44 20 7856 0579
Email: sonoo@cfte.education

About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with 15,000 enrolled students in over 40 disciplines. It seeks to develop students with a passion for learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace.

http://www.np.edu.sg

About Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship (CFTE)

CFTE is an education platform supported by senior leaders from the largest institutions, startups and universities. It addresses the needs of professionals in finance and technologists to up-skill in a rapidly changing industry being transformed by emerging technologies.

http://www.cfte.education

ANNEX A - Selected Profiles of AIF's International Industry-led Faculty

Lecturers

Dr Ayesha Khanna (Singapore)

Dr Ayesha Khanna is Co-Founder and CEO of ADDO AI, an artificial intelligence (AI) advisory firm and incubator. She is a strategic advisor on artificial intelligence, smart cities and fintech to clients such as SMRT, Singapore's largest public transport company, and SmartDubai, which is transforming the city's governance and service delivery. In 2017, ADDO AI was featured in Forbes magazine as one of four leading artificial intelligence companies in Asia.

Dr Stephan Murer (Zurich)

Dr. Stephan Murer, owner of Murer Consulting GmbH, is an independent technology consultant and board member. Until 2017 he was Group Chief Technology officer at UBS AG. He holds a diploma and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from ETH in Zurich and an Executive MBA from the University of St. Gall. After an academic career at ETH and University of California in Berkeley, he joined Credit Suisse in 1994.

Mr Jon-Tzen Ng (Shanghai)

Mr Jon-Tzen Ng is the Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer at Ping An Technology where he focuses on the corporate strategy, TechFin incubation and open innovation. He is also responsible for the strategy consulting practice and the Experience Design Centre, and supports the Group's technology innovation and R&D agenda.

Dr Winnie Cheng (New York)

Dr Winnie Cheng is Co-Founder at Flowcast Inc and has been its Chief Technology Officer and Chief Data Scientist since October 2015. She is also the Chief Data Scientist of Io-Tahoe, a pioneer in machine learning-driven smart data discovery solutions. Dr. Cheng has also held Chief and Senior Data Scientist positions at Bankrate, J.P. Morgan, American Express, and IBM, as well as senior engineering roles at Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard. She holds a PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence,

Guest Speakers

Dr David Hardoon (Singapore)

Dr David Hardoon is the Chief Data Officer and Head of the Data Analytics Group (DAG) at the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). The DAG leads MAS' efforts to harness the power of data analytics to unlock insights, enhance the supervision of financial institutions, and make regulatory compliance more efficient for financial institutions. He used to be the co-founder and Executive Director at Azendian Solutions Pte. Ltd. where he was responsible for the advanced analytics practice and the positioning of business analytics advisory and services to clients across different business sectors across the region. Dr Hardoon received a B.Sc. in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence with first class honors at Royal Holloway, University of London in 2002 and a PhD in Computer Science in the field of Machine Learning from the University of Southampton 2006. He is currently an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Computational Statistics & Machine Learning, University College London.

Mr Erkin Adylov (London)
Mr Erkin Adylov is CEO and founder of Behavox, a company that was awarded capital market startup of the year by Financial News.
After graduating from the LSE Erkin worked at Chatham House, Goldman Sachs and MAN/GLG. He founded Behavox, in London, in 2014. The company is headquartered in UK and has expanded into the US and APAC with offices in New York and Singapore.

Mr Ramneek Gupta (San Francisco)
Mr Ramneek Gupta co-leads strategic investing focused on Fintech/Fin services (Lending, Wealth Management, Capital Markets), Payments (B2B, B2C, P2P, Cyrpto), Commerce (Market-places, loyalty, O2O), Big Data, Analytics, Machine learning & AI and Security at Citi Ventures.

Mr Shameek Kundu (Singapore)
Mr Shameek Kundu is Chief Data Officer at Standard Chartered Bank, and is part of the bank's global IT and Operations Management Team. He is responsible for the bank's Big Data / analytics and traditional data warehouse technology platforms globally, as well as the broader data agenda (data governance, data forensics, reference data, analytics enablement). He supports the Group's innovation agenda, particularly the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and

Advanced Analytics, through engagement and experimentation with Technology start-ups. He is also responsible for maintaining the overall technology strategy / blueprint and roadmap for the bank.

Mr Jean-Philippe Desbiolles (Paris)
Mr Jean-Philippe Desbiolles is the Vice President Cognitive Solutions at IBM Watson Group. He is a senior executive with 20 years of experience in the financial services sector leading innovative, cross-industry and breaking through projects. His main focus is on driving financial institutions' reinvention by leveraging digital, artificial intelligence, advanced analytics and Internet of Things capabilities.