



## WEWORK SIGNS MOU WITH Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC FOR GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Tie-up opens up more opportunities for Singapore tertiary students to secure internship placements at Labs' startups in Singapore, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta
- Exposure will help future leaders gain a stronger regional perspective to create a sustainable future for Singapore through unlocking opportunities and fostering greater innovation

**Singapore and Bangkok (3 December 2018):** [WeWork](#)—the platform for creators that provides the space, community and services to help people make a life, not just a living—signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ngee Ann Polytechnic on 30 November 2018 in Bangkok. The partnership will enable WeWork to collaborate with the polytechnic's Global Entrepreneurial Internship Programme (GEIP) to provide leaders of tomorrow with regional exposure that will broaden their global perspective.



*(L-R, seated) Turochas "T" Fuad, Managing Director, WeWork Southeast Asia, and Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, signed the MOU at a ceremony held at WeWork Asia Centre in Bangkok. Looking on (standing) was Adrian Tan, Head of Labs, WeWork Southeast Asia.*

WeWork's partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic will cover several areas of collaboration such as internship opportunities at WeWork Labs' startups and jointly-curated customised

training programmes relevant to the needs of the community across key Southeast Asia cities namely, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta. WeWork will also extend its membership programme to Ngee Ann Polytechnic, which includes the use of its collaborative spaces in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta.

WeWork believes that the regional exposure students will gain through their placement in startups under its Labs programme will enable them to appreciate the vast opportunities and potential in the region. This initiative is in line with WeWork's core mission in building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem and community, amidst the backdrop of a rising Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economy.

"While we are very humbled to help spur the future of work with our eight years of expertise in this field, the offering of WeWork Labs holds a very special place to us as we now have greater opportunities to connecting Singaporeans to the region," said Turochas "T" Fuad, Managing Director, WeWork Southeast Asia. "With Southeast Asia quickly becoming an innovation hub of the future and a global player when we think about the businesses and ideas coming from this region, the partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic will allow us to better support this already thriving ecosystem by connecting students to local entrepreneurs and startups in our global community, while leveraging on our global network to advance them towards their next phase of growth."

### **Partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic aims to equip the next generation of youth with skillsets ready to create a sustainable future**

Since 2016, Ngee Ann Polytechnic has been sending its students abroad to gain exposure at startups through its GEIP. Starting in Silicon Valley with 10 students, the GEIP has accelerated over the years and is now under the wings of the Singapore Economic Development Board's programme called the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) Innovators Academy. The GIA is an initiative by the Singapore Government to strengthen Singapore's connections to major innovation hubs around the world by creating more opportunities for Singaporeans, students, entrepreneurs and businesses to gain overseas experience, connect and collaborate with their overseas counterparts.

"Preparing the next generation for the jobs of the future has always been a key focus area for Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Our partnership with WeWork Labs will help to further sharpen our efforts in internationalisation and entrepreneurship which we believe are two essential traits for success in the future," said Clarence Ti, Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Leading this initiative from WeWork is Adrian Tan, Head of Labs for WeWork Southeast Asia and previously the Program Director of Vietnam Innovative Startup Accelerator (VIISA). His strong leadership and expertise will help support aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage startups navigate an evolving local market and growing global community. Said Adrian: "With the Southeast Asia region being home to extensive opportunities that are often overlooked, our partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic will play a key role in further connecting Singapore to the region. As there is growing importance for youth nowadays to hone tangible skills in order to stay relevant in the industry, we are confident that this partnership will better nurture the startup ecosystem and for opening up new avenues for helping students to unleash their potential in the region."

## **Foray of WeWork Labs in Southeast Asia spells vast potential and better support for the local infrastructure through accelerators and corporate innovation labs**

Launched in early 2018 with locations in the U.S., Korea, Brazil, Israel, India and more, WeWork Labs is WeWork's innovation platform for early-stage startups that takes an innovative and personalized approach to helping entrepreneurs succeed. Coupled with WeWork's global community of more than 320,000 members, WeWork Labs will serve as a hub for entrepreneurs and early-stage startups throughout Southeast Asia, providing members with access to custom programming, mentorships, investments, and educational resources to help grow their business.

WeWork Labs is globally led by Roe Adler, SVP, Global Head of WeWork Labs. A longtime team member, Roe joined WeWork as Chief Product Officer in 2013, and over the years built WeWork's product management, software engineering, digital design, and data analysis groups. Prabhdeep Singh, Global Head of Operations for WeWork Labs, spearheads the global expansion of the program for early-stage startups.

Through curated programming, in-house resources and a robust mentorship program, each WeWork Labs location is curated for entrepreneurs and startups from any industry and founders from a diverse array of backgrounds. Each location is equipped with a dedicated Labs Manager who acts as a collaborator and innovator focused on members' success, providing a range of educational resources from roundtables and lectures series to one-on-one meetings and more, where members learn everything from accounting and marketing to hiring and pitching future investors.

WeWork Labs also sees this expansion as an opportunity to establish partnerships with local entities and programs in Singapore and throughout Southeast Asia. Working hand in hand with accelerators, incubators and venture capitals (VCs), and large corporations, WeWork Labs will open doors to local partners, investors and vendors, powering future corporate innovation in both Southeast Asia and around the globe. WeWork Labs piloted its first cohort of startups in Singapore in September 2018.

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### **About WeWork Labs**

*WeWork Labs gathers promising early-stage startups and provides them with the space, community and programming to help them succeed. We partner with local incubators and accelerators to provide holistic, long-term support for startups throughout their journey at WeWork Labs. We believe in humanizing the startup process, encouraging inclusivity and diversity, and connecting people to one another. WeWork Labs is a global platform for startups, with over 28 locations around the world. Follow us at @WeWorkLabs on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram or visit [wework.com/labs](http://wework.com/labs) to learn more.*

### **About WeWork**

*WeWork provides over 320,000 members around the world with space, community, and services through both physical and virtual offerings. From startups and freelancers to small*

*businesses and Fortune 500 companies, our community is united by a desire for our members to create meaningful work and lead meaningful lives—to be a part of something greater than ourselves. Co-founded by Adam Neumann and Miguel McKelvey in New York City in 2010, WeWork is a privately held company with over 8,000 employees globally. Follow us @WeWork on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook or visit [wework.com](http://wework.com) to learn more.*

**About the Global Entrepreneurial Internship Programme (GEIP)**

*The Global Entrepreneurial Internship Programme (GEIP) was launched in 2016 by Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) to place student interns in startup companies located abroad. The programme aims to provide enterprising students with an immersive experience of working in different startup hubs around the world, and enable them to gain exposure to global entrepreneurship and innovation activities. It has set up its network in 10 cities including San Francisco’s Silicon Valley, Shanghai, Jakarta and Bangkok. The GEIP is managed by NP’s Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) Office, a partner of Singapore Economic Development Board’s Innovators Academy. Read more about GEIP at [www.geip.sg](http://www.geip.sg)*

**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.*

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