

August 2019

Dear friends,

The Singapore International Foundation's Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) Programme was in China for the first time last month!

We held two programmes in China, the [YSE Workshop | Shanghai and YSE Study Visit](#) concurrently, creating a landmark opportunity for 53 young changemakers representing 10 nationalities to learn from one another and forge larger networks.

YSE 2019 Study Visit in Shanghai

31 youths from 15 social enterprises (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand) gathered in Shanghai from 15 to 19 July to visit leading Chinese impact organisations, incubators and a venture capital firm to learn about social entrepreneurship in sectors such as agriculture, consumer goods and services, education and training, healthcare, inclusive employment, and the environment.

Insights, Innovation, Impact



Experiencing state-of-the-art artificial intelligence and virtual reality technologies produced by Cognitive Leap, a precision healthcare start-up that provides evidence-based mental health solutions.



Principal Investment Director, Ms Dee Zheng, sharing on the range of start-ups using cutting-edge innovations with investment from Bits x Bites, China's pioneer food technology venture capital firm, which supports enterprises that build sustainable food systems.



Janice Tan from Singapore-owned business Mahota Farm, showing their innovative and carbon-neutral sustainable farming practices.

Power of Community



YSEs having fun in the kitchen at the Shanghai Young Bakers, a social enterprise founded by Chi Heng Foundation to support youth impacted by HIV/AIDS.



Admiring the expertise and products made by employees of Home Sweet Home, an organisation that provides vocational training, employment and housing to orphans, homeless people, and persons with disability.



Cross-cultural learning among the international YSEs during the joint workshop sessions with participants from the YSE Study Visit and YSE Workshop | Shanghai.

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“I gained so many insights and experiences about how to create a sustainable and empowered community, impact society through social innovation, and use new technology to address social issues, which I can implement in my country.”

Fano Alfian Ardyansyah, Co-founder, Ailesh Power, Indonesian YSE

YSE Workshop | Shanghai 2019

The inaugural YSE Workshop | Shanghai took place from 17 to 19 July 2019 in partnership with arts and disability social enterprise, [World of Brut Art Culture Foundation \(WABC\)](#), with support from [Non Profit Incubator \(NPI\)'s](#) 724 Cheers Hub, a co-working space and incubator for social enterprises across China.

22 young leaders representing 11 social enterprises from five Chinese cities participated in the three-day workshop to gain skills that will help their startups grow and create greater social impact in China and beyond. Our youths also met successful Singaporean social entrepreneurs who spoke of perseverance in the face of adversity, and benefited from one-on-one business advice from Chinese and Singaporean entrepreneurs and PricewaterhouseCoopers mentors.



Henry Ji, Senior Associate, Zhong Lun Law Firm kickstarting the Spectrum of Mission-Driven Organisations session by introducing China's unique regulatory framework for NGOs and businesses.



Ding Li (in blue tunic), Vice President of NPI, facilitating a presentation by YSE Voice Changer following her sharing on the preparation needed to harness diverse funding sources in China.



Yi Zhang from YSE Green Light-year discussing the social enterprise's Theory of Change with Zhang Jufang (standing), Founder and CEO, Capacity Building Assessment Centre, in the Impact Measurement workshop.

Sharing Networks and Resources, Forging Friendships



Xiao Long (in blue shirt), a student with cerebral palsy from WABC, facilitating an art therapy session on “Inclusion and Enterprise” for the China-based YSEs and the International YSEs from Study Visit.



Elim Chew, Founder of 77th Street in Singapore sharing her journey of resilience in setting up her social enterprise.



Russ Neu, Founder of Social Collider in Singapore guiding Chinese YSE Peach Talk in plotting their SWOT analysis in preparation for the “Social Enterprise Marketplace” that enabled 29 YSE teams to come together to barter resources and leverage collaboration.

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Taking a commemorative photo to conclude the Networking Dinner. From left: Ernawaty Sorianto, Director of Project M Pte Ltd; Ding Li, Vice-president, Non-Profit Incubator; Guest of Honour Loh Tuck Wai, Singapore Consul-General to Shanghai; Elim Chew, SIF Special Advisor to YSE; Danielle Koh, Consul (Political), Singapore Consulate-General in Shanghai; and Jaryll Chan, Director, Programmes Division, SIF.



An insightful panel discussion on “Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Good” prompted the audience to consider the potential of AI in creating and enhancing social impact. (From left) Xin Yu Qu, CTO of Bus Listening social enterprise in Guangdong; Singaporean AI Scientist James Ong, Founder and CEO of Origami Frontiers in Shanghai; Mahdi Shariff, Co-Founder of Guanxi.AI in Singapore; and moderator, Dean Wang, Advanced Analytics, Machine Learning and AI Expert, McKinsey & Co. Singapore.



China-based young changemakers from the Young Social Entrepreneurs (YSE) Workshop | Shanghai taking a commemorative photo with new international friends from the YSE 2019 Study Visit.

“The YSE programme provided a platform for people doing good in Singapore and all over the world to share stories and knowledge. It’s great to hear from peers and mentors from all across the world to help us build a broader view of social entrepreneurship. The Singaporean and local mentors, speakers and peers we met inspire us to do good across the world!”

Verena Yu, Marketing Manager, CYOT and Chinese YSE

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Bringing our YSE programme to Shanghai would not have been possible without the support of the following partners:



We look forward to your continual support in Singapore and abroad as we inspire, equip and enable more young changemakers to build sustainable social enterprises for a better world.

Warmest wishes,
Singapore International Foundation



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