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NINE POLYTECHNIC AND ITE STUDENTS RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS

Singapore, 20 June 2024 – The National Environment Agency (NEA) has awarded scholarships to nine students under the NEA-Industry Scholarship Programme for Environmental Services (ES) at the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore (CESG) today. For the first time, a pest management company and two technology solutions partners have come on board to co-sponsor this newest batch of scholars. At the ceremony, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for Sustainability and the Environment, urged industry players to continue strengthening efforts to nurture talents and create quality jobs.

Largest batch of NEA-Industry Scholarship recipients to date

2 In 2023, NEA received close to 80 applications – almost twice the number of applications received when the programme was first introduced in 2020. Today, nine¹ deserving individuals received scholarships, and will take on jobs such as Software Developers, Management Trainees and Sustainability Executives with companies including ALBA W&H Smart City Pte Ltd, LionsBot International Pte Ltd and LS 2 Services Pte Ltd upon graduation.

3 Amongst the recipients is Ding Yu Xin, a Year 2 student pursuing a Diploma in Computer Science in Singapore Polytechnic. Yu Xin has a strong empathy for cleaners, as her grandmother worked as a cleaner in the past. Having followed her grandmother around on numerous occasions, she recognises the value of cleaning as an essential service in Singapore. This led her to pursue a career in the ES industry, where she hopes to use her expertise in coding to improve the work of cleaners. Yu Xin looks forward to an exciting career with LionsBot International as a User Experience Designer.

4 Joining the cleaning sector is 20-year-old Khaja Kamaludeen Md Shameem, a Year 3 student pursuing a Diploma in Big Data and Analytics in Temasek Polytechnic. Shameem developed an interest in environmental sustainability, arising from his passion for Geography. Through his participation in the NUS Geography Competition on Sustainable Footprints, he explored case studies to resolve carbon footprint emission issues in Singapore. This sparked his interest in creating healthy and safe spaces to improve the well-being of both people and the environment. He looks forward to integrating his knowledge in IT and Data Analysis with the ES industry through his role as a Software Developer with IFSC Ltd.

5 The NEA-Industry Scholarship programme has received strong support from industry partners. LS 2 Services Pte Ltd, a returning sponsor, has hired three scholars across two cycles of the programme. Ms Tan Wei Ying, Chief Operating Officer of LS2 Services, emphasised the importance of grooming the next generation of young talents, “We can cultivate a pipeline of tech-savvy and motivated professionals who will spearhead innovation and propel the industry forward. Our scholars represent the new generation of environmental champions, employing inter-operable solutions and developing intelligent tools to enable data-driven operations that improve productivity and alleviate manpower challenges in the industry.”

¹ More information on the nine recipients and sponsoring companies can be found in the [Annex](#).

6 The NEA-Industry Scholarship is an initiative under the ES Industry Transformation Map, and a key programme in attracting young talent to the ES industry, to build a skilled and resilient workforce². The ES industry plays a pivotal role in upholding Singapore's cleanliness and sustainability. In the Year of Public Hygiene, NEA will continue to work with partners to build a strong and technology-enabled cleaning industry. The collective effort of all stakeholders is key to upholding high standards of public cleanliness and safeguarding the environment for tomorrow.

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About the National Environment Agency

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment for Singapore. Its key roles are to improve and sustain a clean environment, promote sustainability and resource efficiency, maintain high public health standards, provide timely and reliable meteorological information, and encourage a vibrant hawker culture. NEA works closely with its partners and the community to develop and spearhead environmental and public health initiatives and programmes. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to build a liveable and sustainable Singapore for present and future generations.

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² More information on the NEA-Industry Scholarship Awards can be found [here](#).

Profiles of scholarship recipients

Name (age), Language proficiency	School (Course)	Company sponsor (Sector)	Background / profile
Rae Chan (17), English	Temasek Polytechnic (Diploma in Big Data & Analytics)	LS 2 Services Pte Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rae is an enthusiastic and dedicated Big Data and Analytics student in Temasek Polytechnic, driven by a deep-rooted passion for environmental conservation. • Her hands-on experience in a beach cleaning exercise has heightened her awareness of the volume of waste that can be generated and improperly disposed, which further fuels her determination to address environmental issues through her expertise in data analytics. She feels that her training in data analytics would enable her to obtain better insights, and drive better decision making. • Helping others comes naturally to her, and this aligns with her goals of making Singapore a cleaner place using technology, and the prospect of making other people's lives easier and more efficient excites her.
Cheah Ming Hong (18), English, Mandarin and Basic Malay	ITE College Central (H. Nitec in Mechatronics Engineering)	Re Sustainability Cleantech Pte Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ming Hong is proactive, dedicated, adaptable, and looks forward to exploring different scopes of work in Re Sustainability Cleantech. • During his time at Re Sustainability Cleantech, Ming Hong took the initiative to voluntarily pursue additional internship, where he gained hands-on experience with a diverse range of tools, ranging from programming cleaning robots to do scrubbing and mopping at the push of a button; to being introduced to technologies that prevent trash from polluting our seas. • He personally finds these technologies to be exciting and considers working in Re Sustainability Cleantech to be a special experience, as there are different avenues for him to explore working in, ranging from outdoor cleaning, offices, events, or other spaces.

Name (age), Language proficiency	School (Course)	Company sponsor (Sector)	Background / profile
Ding Yu Xin (17), English and Mandarin	Singapore Polytechnic (Diploma in Computer Engineering)	LionsBot International Pte Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yu Xin is a curious individual with a thirst for learning. She has a keen interest in coding, hardware, and software skills. • Her decision to pursue a career in the industry is driven by a deep empathy for cleaners, and her desire to merge her passion with her coding expertise. • As her grandmother was a cleaner in the past, she has witnessed the amount of work that is involved in cleaning and recognises the importance of cleaning in providing important services for the nation. She feels that people often take cleaners' tireless efforts for granted and wanted to make a difference through her career. • She also has a strong passion to minimise food and general waste, and makes it a habit to regularly remind her friends to avoid wasting their food and to take their leftover food to go. Matters relating to recycling and plastic waste are also deeply concerning to her, as she recognises its devastating impact on the environment.
Khaja Kamaludeen Md Shameem (19), English and Tamil	Temasek Polytechnic (Diploma in Big Data & Analytics)	IFSC Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shameem is an analytical and intellectually curious individual, with an interest in studying the physical environment. • In his earlier years, he gained an interest in Geography. He participated in the NUS Geography Competition 2021 (Sustainable Footprints) where he discussed case studies to reduce the carbon footprint in Singapore and address unsustainable production methods. • This interest in sustainability and in the world around him attracted him to a career with the industry because of its importance in creating healthier and safer spaces. He looks forward to applying his skills in data analysis and IT to a meaningful purpose, and to apply his skills in data analysis and robotics technology in cleaning and facilities management. • He has been exposed to multiple types of technologies, such as applications development, website design and development, and data analytics and data science.

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Yak Ming Yuan (19), English	ITE College Central (H. Nitec in Robotics & Smart Systems)	RS Facilities Services Pte Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ming Yuan is a hands-on individual with a strong passion for environmental protection, and a motivation to protect our green spaces in Singapore. • Before accepting the NEA-Industry Scholarship, Ming Yuan had interned in the cleaning sector where he was tasked with tracking supply parts, movement of parts from the warehouse to the production floor, building a test robot, and performing fault testing / quality control. • This practical experience will lend him success in his future career with his Sponsoring Organisation. • Ming Yuan aspires to become a subject-matter expert overtime and hopes to address concerns faced by elderly workers in deploying cleaning robots, and provide sound advice on how these issues could be resolved.
Yap Yu Ning Bernyce (17), English	Ngee Ann Polytechnic (Diploma in Environmental and Water Technology)	Chye Thiam Maintenance Pte Ltd (Cleaning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernyce is an adventurous individual who always tries to challenge herself to explore different experiences outside her comfort zone. • Her desire to pursue a career in the ES industry stems from her desire to gain firsthand knowledge and up-close experiences in cleaning and waste management services are like, as well as the procedures needed to ensure process efficiency. • Throughout her studies, she has acquired comprehensive insights into how solid and hazardous waste is generated, in the methods of collecting, handling, treatment, disposal of waste, and related pollution impacts. • Bernyce has also demonstrated leadership competencies in her current role as the admin head in her Volleyball CCA. She has honed skills in manpower planning arrangements, which will be beneficial in her career with the ES industry.
Dylan Leong Jun Wai (17), English	Ngee Ann Polytechnic (Diploma in Environmental and Water Technology)	Ecospace Pest Management Pte Ltd (Pest Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dylan is a dedicated and curious individual with a deep passion for the natural world and environmental sustainability. These interests have led him to pursue a career with the ES industry. • He has a keen interest in plastics waste recycling and wants to explore how he could help to reduce the amount of waste generated in Singapore. • Over the course of his studies, he has been exposed to interesting topics in waste management, such as the proper disposal of waste and the Singapore 2030 green plan, which further piqued his interest to pursue a career with the ES Industry.

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Chan Lih Qing (18), English and Mandarin	Singapore Polytechnic (Diploma in Civil Engineering)	Ravago Manufacturing Singapore Pte Ltd (Waste Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lih Qing is a driven individual who is passionate about sustainability and feels a sense of responsibility to protect our green spaces. • She is greatly concerned about plastics waste, as she recognises it is widely generated and often improperly disposed. She is excited about the increasing focus on recycling, and hopes that Singaporeans could widely adopt a Zero Waste lifestyle and eliminate the use of plastic. • This passion about plastics recycling and sustainability motivated her to pursue a career with Ravago Manufacturing Singapore, where she looks forward to performing a role as a sustainability executive upon graduation. • In the future, she aspires to make a positive impact in environmental engineering by designing and implementing methods to reduce waste and improve our environment.
Javier Chua Yee Peng (19), English and Mandarin	Temasek Polytechnic (Diploma in Mechatronics)	ALBA W&H Smart City Pte Ltd (Waste Management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Javier is passionate about sustainability and exploring how engineering can address environment-related issues. Javier used to be on the National Development Squad for road cycling, and trained under TeamSG. • This interest in the outdoors led him to consider a career where he could directly impact the environment through his work – he looks forward to applying his mechatronics knowledge (i.e. in robotics, automation, IoT) into real-world scenarios and actively contributing to the creation of innovative solutions. • His concern for the outdoor world is also evident through his daily sustainable habits. As part of his daily life, Javier uses a food waste composting bin to reduce the amount of waste in Singapore. • E-Waste is another topic that is of great concern to him, as it poses serious threats to both the environment and human health. He actively implements environmentally friendly habits such as purchasing a modular laptop instead of a normal laptop. • In school, he had embarked on projects such as the Factory Automation System, where he developed an automation system that is capable of sorting objects based on material and colour. • His concern in e-waste topics and sustainability motivated him to pursue a career with ALBA W&H Smart City as a Management Trainee, where he will gain an exposure to waste management.