

Deloitte Alumni News

Committing to our communities

Welcome to issue 12 of Deloitte Alumni News

The Deloitte Singapore Alumni programme provides a gateway where friends and former colleagues can stay in touch, strengthen ties and build relationships. This quarterly newsletter helps you keep up with Deloitte news, programmes and events both in the region, and globally.

Highlights in this issue include Deloitte's appointment as the Official Professional Services Partner for the 28th SEA Games, Deloitte's achievement at the Singapore Accountancy Awards 2014 and Deloitte's professionals' recognition for excellence in indirect tax.

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Feature story

Deloitte appointed the Official Professional Services Partner for the 28th SEA Games



Deloitte is proud to have been appointed the Official Professional Services Partner for the 28th SEA Games. This announcement was made by The Singapore Southeast Asian Games Organising Committee (SINGSOC) at a ceremony on 7 August 2014.

Pledging over SGD\$5 million in cash and value-in-kind services such as Advisory, Assurance and Consulting services, Deloitte is a Tier One sponsor for the region's most prestigious multi-sport Games. With a wealth of expertise in supporting the pinnacle of sporting events around the world such as the London Olympics, the Vancouver Winter Olympics and the inaugural Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore in 2010, Deloitte will help raise the bar and further boost international recognition for Singapore's hosting of this event.

"We are honoured to be appointed the Official Professional Services Partner for the 28th SEA Games. Just as we have delivered exceptionally to the Olympic Movement, we hope to deliver innovative solutions to SINGSOC. We believe that we will have a strong and enduring partnership because of our common values, including our commitment to excellence in delivery, spirit of innovation and desire to contribute positively to our community." said Chaly Mah, Chairman of Deloitte Singapore and CEO of Deloitte Southeast Asia.

This appointment underscores Deloitte's social responsibility and commitment towards bringing the SEA Games spirit to the community, in alignment with the upcoming Game's theme – Celebrate the Extraordinary.

"Deloitte has been involved in sports locally and globally. They have very good knowledge of sport and have the passion for it. SINGSOC is pleased to partner them as they not only help us during pre-Games and Games time, but also to build a legacy where all of us – sporting fraternity and sponsors, can learn and up the benchmark in organising sporting events. With Deloitte onboard, we have officially surpassed our halfway mark of target sponsorship amount for these 28th SEA Games." said Richard Seow, Chairman of Sponsorship and Marketing Advisory Sub-Committee, SINGSOC.

Deloitte will provide SINGSOC with expert people through a secondee programme together with advisory support. In addition, Deloitte will offer a flexible range of skills across a number of different operational areas as well as contribution through volunteerism to help the SEA Games organising committee in their goal of building a truly memorable Games for Singaporeans and regional visitors, and a legacy long after the end of the Games.

"Deloitte has a long history of supporting sport in Singapore from the Singapore Youth Olympic Games in 2010, to the support for Team Singapore athletes in delivering their dreams and creating cherished memories. Our recent partnership with Sport Singapore for the Sports Excellence Career (spexCareer) Scheme, fulfils and extends Deloitte's commitment to our shared values of integrity, excellence, and commitment to one another – qualities and values that are also present in sports." said Philip Yuen, CEO Deloitte Singapore.



"In addition, I'm pleased to share that many of our Deloitte athletes are competing to be selected to represent their nations in the Games; we are very proud of their achievements and hopefully we will be cheering them on at the Games for their hard work and commitment. The atmosphere in the firm also gets a boost as well – the chance to work, and sometimes even train, alongside someone like Derek Wong, the current Singapore top badminton player is a great experience for our people," shared Philip.

Deloitte Singapore's employees include Derek Wong, Singapore's current top badminton player and Commonwealth Games silver and bronze medallist, and netballer Suhailah Binte Kariman as well as other current national team athletes in sports like fencing, basketball and floorball. Through the 'Deloitte Ignite' program, Deloitte provides employment opportunities – both full-time and part-time – to national athletes to help them develop their future careers while they represent the country. It does not just benefit the athletes though – it also adds to Deloitte's diversity, allowing employees who are athletes and non-athletes alike to interact and share with each other different unique skills, mindsets and experiences that are mutually enriching and build a great team spirit.

Delivering the dream: Deloitte's commitment to community and sports

The 28th Southeast Asian Games provides an opportunity for millions of dreams to come true.

As the Official Professional Services Partner of the Games, Deloitte stands ready to help deliver these dreams. Our Deloitte Ignite program fulfills part of this commitment by providing career opportunities to current and former national team athletes, allowing them to balance their working and sporting lives with our support.

Hear what some of the current and recent Deloitte athletes have to say about what it means to them to reach their dreams:



Angelyn Pang
Team Singapore Football Player
Deloitte Clients & Markets Executive

"I give it my all in everything that I do."



Derek Wong
Team Singapore Badminton Player
Deloitte Research Analyst

"I keep my head high, and keep on fighting for my dreams no matter what."



Charmaine Soh
Team Singapore Netball Player
Deloitte Regulatory & Compliance Associate

"Never give up. Whatever comes easy wouldn't last, and whatever that lasts wouldn't come easy."



Heng Hui-shan
Team Singapore Floorball Player
Deloitte Audit Associate

"Having passion enables me to balance both my sporting and career dreams."



Deborah Chin
Team Singapore Football Player
Deloitte ERS Clients & Markets Executive

"My dream is to always do what I love, and to do it well."



Joscelin Kee
Team Singapore Floorball Player
Deloitte Audit Associate

"Love for my job and my sport makes it much easier to achieve my dreams."

Click [here](#) to find out about Deloitte's commitment to Singapore, the communities, the nation's athletes and Deloitte's people.



Koh Kai Ling
Team Singapore Netball Player (Retired)
Deloitte Audit Manager

"Focus is key."



Suhailah Kariman
Team Singapore Netball Player
Deloitte Clients & Markets Executive

"I have big dreams: sometimes they scare me. But with passion, hard work and self-belief, I know I can reach them."



Micky Lin
Team Singapore Netball Captain
Deloitte Clients & Markets Assistant Manager

"Pursuing my dreams requires me to strike a balance between the goals I set for my life, my work and my sport."



Wynne Tang
Team Singapore Floorball Player
Deloitte Senior Audit Associate

"Reaching my dreams means to have willpower and take setbacks in my stride."



Sharlene Li
Team Singapore Basketball Player
Deloitte Audit Manager

"Even when the going gets tough, a positive attitude is very important."



Yip Pin Xiu
Team Singapore Para Swimmer
Deloitte Clients & Markets Intern (2014)

"Sacrifice, although sometimes tough, is worth it when it gives me time to concentrate on doing well."



Sharmaine Cheung
Team Singapore Fencer
Deloitte Audit Associate

"When your journey is not as smooth sailing as you would like, never lose hope."



Yu Mei Ling
Team Singapore Netball Player
Deloitte HR Administrator

"The road to fulfilling my dreams is all about discipline."

Around the region

Deloitte Southeast Asia professionals recognised for excellence in indirect tax

For the second year in a row, Deloitte has led the Big Four by a significant margin in the Indirect Tax Leaders guide, which was recently published by the International Tax Review (ITR). The 2014 edition of the annually released guide has Deloitte outpacing the nearest Big Four competitor by more than 50%, having 118 indirect tax professionals listed in the guide, followed by EY with 65, PwC with 50, and KPMG with 49.

In Southeast Asia, Deloitte has nine professionals recognised as leading indirect tax advisors from the Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore practices. Chandran Ramasamy, Fan Kah Seong and Tan Eng Yew, were the only three individuals named in Deloitte Malaysia. Bob Fletcher, Danny Koh, Richard Mackender, Robert Tsang and Rony Wuytjens were five of the sixteen individuals named from Singapore, while Richard Lapres was one of the three individuals named from Philippines.

“We are proud to have such a large presence in this guide yet again,” said Low Hwee Chua, Tax Services Leader, Deloitte Singapore and Southeast Asia.

“This is a nice recognition of the quality of work of our professionals, and is also a testament to the strength of our global network. In Southeast Asia, our professionals are well versed in indirect tax and customs and global trade regulations and issues in the region, and have a wealth of experience to assist clients not only in the local market, but across borders as well,” he added.

The Indirect Tax Leaders guide is a listing of the world’s most notable indirect tax advisors, as determined by ITR’s researchers and editorial board. Inclusion in the guide is based on a minimum number of nominations received. In addition, nominations are confirmed by independent ITR research where there is evidence of outstanding work in the last year, as well as consistently positive feedback from peers and clients.

Click [here](#) to view the 2014 edition of the Indirect Tax Leaders guide.

The nine Deloitte professionals are:

Malaysia



Tan Eng Yew
Country Indirect Tax Leader



Fan Kah Seong
Indirect Tax Partner



Chandran Ramasamy
Tax Director, GST/Customs and Global Trade

The Philippines



Richard Lapres
Country Indirect Tax Leader

Singapore



Bob Fletcher
Customs & Global Trade Leader,
Southeast Asia & Asia Pacific



Robert Tsang
Indirect Tax Leader,
Southeast Asia & Asia Pacific



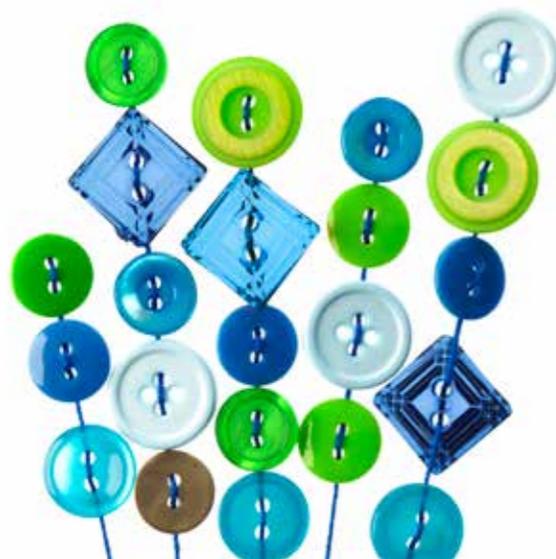
Richard Mackender
Country Indirect Tax Leader



Rony Wuytjens
Asia Pacific Tax Management and
Compliance & Reporting Leader



Danny Koh
Tax Director, GST



Chaly Mah shares insights on AEC at The Economist South-East Asia Summit 2014



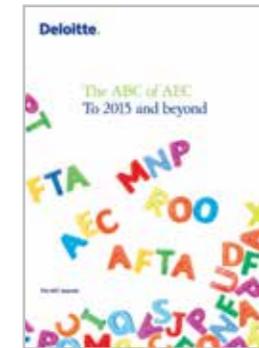
The South-East Asia Summit 2014, organised by The Economist Events, was held on 27 August 2014 at the Ritz-Carlton, in Jakarta. The summit, themed 'From Neighbourhood to Community', brought leaders from the government, business, academia, multilateral institutions and non-government organisations together to explore the political, economic and strategic rationale for the SEA nations which are seeking a more connected region.

Deloitte Singapore Chairman and Deloitte Southeast Asia CEO, Chaly Mah, represented Deloitte as a panelist for the discussion on 'Project 2015 – Towards economic community' which centered on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which is targeted to be formed by 2015. It brought together voices from the government and business, and the panel examined the main obstacles to forming an AEC in the SEA region, how these challenges can be overcome, as well as what the AEC will mean for businesses. Joining Chaly in the panel discussion was Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Director of Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, Chief Executive Officer of Sintesa Group and Don Lam, Chief Executive Officer and Founding Partner of VinaCapital. The discussion was moderated by Dominic Ziegler, the Asia Editor, The Economist.



Commenting on the final hurdles of completing the AEC, Chaly said, "There will be no big bang in 2015. There will be a process after that. Those who are willing will reach agreement first." He also added that "The AEC will take a coalition of the willing – if you wait too long for consensus, you gravitate to the bottom. You can't wait for everyone."

Deloitte was a supporting sponsor of the Summit, and used the opportunity to showcase the specially curated AEC publication - **The ABC of AEC: To 2015 and beyond**, which captures the essence of the AEC by stripping down to the basics. This is the first in a series of pieces Deloitte will be producing to provide insights on what the AEC means for businesses.



For more updates on the Deloitte AEC Agenda, please click [here](#).

Establishing effective corporate governance reform priorities in Myanmar at the OECD's SEA Policy Dialogue



On 3 and 4 July 2014, Christopher Tun, Consulting Director for Myanmar, spoke at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD's) Southeast Asia Policy Dialogue on 'Corporate Governance, Capital Market Development and State-Owned Enterprises'.

Organised by the OECD in partnership with the Government of Japan and supported by the Securities Commission Malaysia, this conference focused on the key challenges of capital market development and effective corporate governance reform priorities in Myanmar.

The dialogue kicked off with a panel discussion examining the influence that corporate governance had on investor confidence and in attracting capital. As a panelist, Christopher shared his extensive knowledge on the key areas and issues in corporate governance with the audience. Other panelists included representatives from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and from the Finance Accreditation Agency.

The conference also deliberated on important issues such as the global benchmarks in corporate governance and reform priorities; building an effective corporate governance framework; as well as economic integration between ASEAN member countries.

The participants also attended a welcome dinner at the Sule Shangri-La which was sponsored by Deloitte Singapore's Centre for Corporate Governance. Besides showcasing Deloitte's thought leadership publications at this dinner, a number of key clients based in Myanmar were also invited. This was an excellent networking opportunity as the dinner was also attended by over 60 local business leaders as well as Dr. San Lwin, Myanmar's Deputy Minister of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

For more information on this conference, click [here](#).



Deloitte Singapore highlights Chaly Mah and Po'ad Mattar honoured with National Day Awards



9 August 2014 marked Singapore's 49th National Day and in conjunction with the nation's birthday, the National Day Awards were presented to deserving individuals in 19 categories, recognising their contributions and service to the nation.

Among the recipients of the National Day Awards was Deloitte Alumni Po'ad Mattar, former Managing Partner of Deloitte Singapore, who was honoured with the Meritorious Service Medal for his public service. This includes his service as a member of the Council of Presidential Advisers as well as in the Public Service Commission, which oversees the recruitment, promotion and terms of service of civil servants. The Meritorious Service Medal honours individuals who have performed services of merit characterised by resource and devotion to duty, including long service marked by exceptional ability and exemplary conduct. Previously, Po'ad was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2002, the Public Service Star in 2007 and MUIS Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

In addition, Chaly Mah, Chairman of Deloitte Singapore and Deloitte Southeast Asia CEO, was honoured with the Public Service Medal for his work as Chairman of the Singapore Land Authority (SLA). The SLA is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law which focuses on land resource optimisation.

Chaly wears a number of hats at Deloitte as well as other organisations and he has been serving on the board of SLA for the past seven years, four of which as Chairman. Under his leadership, the engagement with the public and the stakeholders has improved tremendously and SLA has become more transparent and open in communicating with customers and media. Chaly stepped down as Chairman of SLA on 31 July 2014, but he can certainly look back with satisfaction, having shared his private-sector experience with a key government agency.

For more information on the National Day Awards, please refer to this [website](#).

Deloitte Singapore wins big at the Singapore Accountancy Awards 2014

Deloitte Singapore won the *Excellence in People Development Award* at the Singapore Accountancy Awards 2014 which was held on 31 July 2014 at the Marina Bay Sands. In addition, Deloitte Singapore Chairman and Deloitte Southeast Asia CEO, Chaly Mah, was honoured with the prestigious *Accountant of the Year Award*. The awards were presented by Mrs Josephine Teo, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Finance and Transport who was the Guest-of-Honour at the Awards Dinner.

Held in conjunction with the Singapore Accountancy Convention 2014, the inaugural Singapore Accountancy Awards recognises outstanding practices and individuals in the profession. The Singapore Accountancy Awards, organised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants, is supported by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority and the Singapore Accountancy Commission. The Awards is the first of its kind within the local accountancy sector and intended as a platform to recognise business and individual excellence, promote good practices, and strengthen branding of the profession and industry.

The *Excellence in People Development Award* recognises Deloitte Singapore for demonstrating corporate success through the initiatives that best attracts, retains and develops talent, and a strategy that contributes to us being an employer of choice. Deloitte Singapore CEO, Philip Yuen, received the award on behalf of Deloitte Singapore.



The *Accountant of the Year Award* was presented to Chaly Mah, in recognition of his strong professional qualities, sound technical knowledge and experience, and his active contributions to the organisation, profession and community. The judging panel, made up of respected leaders from a diverse range of industry, government and academic experts, were impressed by Chaly's accomplishments and consistent approach towards successfully growing the Southeast Asia firm; on top of his portfolio of managing Deloitte in the Asia Pacific region. In addition, they recognised that Chaly has been a strong advocate and contributor to the profession as well as a strong partner of universities and supporter of education.

Dr Ernest Kan, Chief of Operations for Clients & Markets, Deloitte Singapore, was also presented with the Platinum Award for his distinguished accomplishments and services in advancing the Institute's standing in the international, regional and national fronts. Ernest has been a member of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) since 1988 and has contributed significantly to the development of the Institute and the accountancy profession throughout his 14 years of service on the Council. Although he has stepped down as President of ISCA, he continues as a Board Member of the Singapore Accountancy Commission, a statutory board under the Ministry of Finance.

Click on the respective links to find out more about the [Singapore Accountancy Convention](#) and the [Singapore Accountancy Awards](#).

Universum ranks Deloitte as the professional services employer of choice among business students in Asia Pacific

The Universum APAC's Most Attractive Employers 2014 rankings survey report, released on 15 July 2014, shows that Deloitte is ranked as the second most ideal employer among business students in the Asia Pacific region, just after Google, which puts Deloitte to be ranked as the top professional services employer of choice. Deloitte gains three positions from the fifth position in 2013 and is still ahead of the other professional services firms in the rankings.

From October 2013 to May 2014, over 87,000 students took part in Universum's Asia Pacific Student Survey from regions such as Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Universum's survey explores career drivers, student goals, desirable employer attributes, and the most common communication channels used to find out about employers. The results are weighted by GDP.

"We are honored and delighted that Deloitte is ranked the second most ideal employer across Asia Pacific in the Universum ranking this year. This honor comes as a result of our commitment towards providing an environment for our employees to excel and achieve their full potential, and we do so by cultivating a high performance and innovative culture within the firm and delivering a distinctive experience for each employee. I would like to congratulate all of our people who have helped build our reputation and we will continue to work towards being the employer of choice for the most sought after talent," said Chaly Mah, Chairman of Deloitte Singapore and CEO of Deloitte Asia Pacific.



Deloitte seeks to recruit, develop and retain world-class leaders and does so through the 'What's Your Deloitte?' initiative, which is the firm's commitment to its people that they will be given the opportunities to define who they are and what they want their career to be at Deloitte. This includes opportunities to be involved in challenging work, given time to learn and develop their skills, participate in mobility assignments and join extra-curricular activities including sports and corporate social responsibility projects.

"Deloitte's 2014 Universum ranking is a testament to the good work and the tremendous progress we have made in our Talent and Employer Branding initiatives in the last 12 months. We hope to continue to strive to be the employer of choice and improve our employee initiatives so as to attract and retain top talent, and also to motivate and strengthen our employees' contribution to the organisation," said Seah Gek Choo, Deloitte Singapore Talent Partner.

For more information on the ranking, please [click](#) here.

Social news

IMPACT Day 2014 – it starts with me

On 29 August 2014, Deloitte Singapore held its annual IMPACT Day, which saw over 560 partners and staff volunteering in nine different activities at various locations across the island. IMPACT Day is a special day where Deloitte employees set aside work to contribute time and talent to benefit the people in the community. This is also the third year where all practices in Deloitte Southeast Asia coordinated their IMPACT Day.



Youth and education

Over 250 volunteers arrived bright and early at NorthLight School to join the students on their educational tours to Universal Studios Singapore, River Safari, the Singapore Zoo, and the new Sports Hub. Deloitte Singapore CEO, Philip Yuen, kicked off the day with a speech to the students and volunteers, encouraging both groups to take the opportunity to share experiences and get to know each other better. He went on to join the students and volunteers at the Sports Hub to participate in the various sporting activities together with Chaly Mah, Chairman of Deloitte Singapore and Deloitte Southeast Asia CEO and Dr Ernest Kan, Chief of Operations for Clients & Markets, Deloitte Singapore. The students at the Sports Hub were brought on a tour of the facilities, including the National Stadium and the OCBC Aquatic Centre. They were given the opportunity to play netball, table tennis and basketball at the new courts, and meet national basketball player and Singapore Slinger, Ng Han Bin, who conducted a basketball clinic for the students.

Other students had a chance to visit Universal Studios, River Safari and the Singapore Zoo, and under the guidance of Deloitte volunteers they applied what they learnt in school and completed the activity booklet given by the teachers. Students at the River Safari were also able to indulge in the newly-opened River Safari Cruise.

IMPACT Day was a great opportunity for us to engage with the NorthLight students on a more personal level. The tour of the Sports Hub and the subsequent sporting activities where I was able to leverage on my interest in table-tennis to coach the students was meaningful for me.

Hsu Man Pin, ERS Associate

IMPACT Day gave me the opportunity to contribute back to the society and interact with the students of NorthLight School and understand the challenges they face. It was a meaningful and enjoyable day spent with the students and I hope to be able to participate in more of such activities in future.

Trevor Tang, Senior Webcast Coordinator, Tax



Elderly care

89 Deloitte volunteers came together at Tung Ling Community Services to bring joy and laughter to the elderly residents at Dakota Crescent. They were all excited to pose for photos at the different exhibits and Deloitte volunteers were their photographers for the day. It was a heart-warming affair to see the elderly folks having such a good time. The day ended with a sumptuous lunch where everyone had a good laugh looking at the slideshow of all the photos that were taken at the Museum. Prizes were awarded to the residents and photographers for the best three photos taken.

I was very glad I got to spend IMPACT Day with the elderly at the Trick Eye Museum who were very enthusiastic and fascinated by the exhibits! It was definitely a memorable experience for both the elderly and our volunteers as we explored the museum and captured many happy moments.

Tan Cihui, Audit Senior

Enhancing living conditions of the needy

40 Deloitte volunteers worked with the People's Association to improve the living conditions of the low-income elderly residing in rental flats at Redhill, who are facing issues with bed bugs. The volunteers – clad in full fumigation suits – assisted with the packing and unpacking of belongings and even sent laundry items for washing and drying. They also engaged with the residents over an interactive lunch session. Though tiring and laborious, their efforts paid off, the living conditions of these needy residents were greatly improved.

It was an exceptionally meaningful experience to be part of the Stop Bed Bugs activity. It made me much more appreciative of the everyday comforts that we usually take for granted. It was also heartening to see many of our senior management volunteering their time to benefit the community, and this makes me proud to be part of an organisation that cares.

Chua Jing-Yuan, Audit Associate

Providing meals to the needy

It was an early 7am start for 41 Deloitte volunteers at the Soup Kitchen of Willing Hearts, where they lent a hand in the preparation, cooking and distribution of over 4,600 meals to underprivileged residents residing in various districts in Singapore. Although cooking looks like a seemingly easy task, it was really tiring as the volume of food required was massive and it was continuous dicing, stirring and packing. In spite of this, the volunteers were all smiles and spared no effort to ensure that the food packets were delivered in time for lunch to the less privileged elderly.

Helping to prepare food on such a massive scale was quite an experience – manually squeezing a basketful of lime, cracking countless trays of eggs, cutting packs and packs of sausages. Though tiring, it was fun and fulfilling knowing that our efforts were very tangible to the underprivileged.

Low Xing Hui, Audit Associate

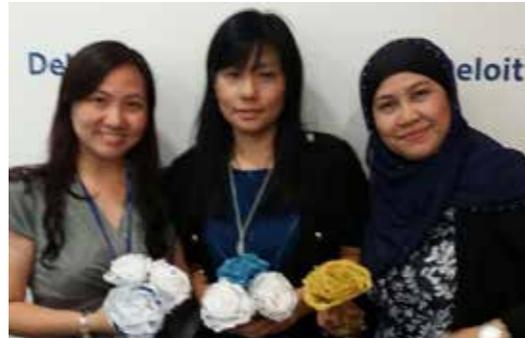
Environmental care

A group of 40 Deloitte volunteers got together at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital's rooftop garden to help maintain its greenery, so as to provide patients with a healing environment. For some of them, it was their first time tending to plants. Green fingers or not, the volunteers were all smiles and focused on ensuring that the garden was well tended. At the same time, a separate group of Deloitte volunteers went on an environmental patrol at the Marina Reservoir via boat, kayak, bicycle and foot to monitor, restore and protect the aesthetics of our waterways, which was recently affected by an oil spill.

While kayaking along the river brought back good memories of canoeing in my junior college days, the experience also taught me not to take the cleanliness of our waters for granted. It was an eye-opener and I appreciate Deloitte's efforts in supporting its staff to participate in these community service activities.

Deborah Tan, Business Analyst, Consulting

Audit Volunteer Initiative - Providing underprivileged students with a unique learning experience



In addition to the above activities, the Deloitte Singapore practice was also involved in several recycling initiatives prior to IMPACT Day. Aside from the usual paper recycling bins, recycling bins for the collection of plastics and cans were placed around the office. Deloitte also worked with The Salvation Army to collect donations of old clothes and partnered with the People's Association (PA) to train Deloitte ambassadors how to create flowers using recycled plastic bags. Deloitte also raised funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (Singapore), which will go towards its programmes and services to improve the quality of life of more than 270 of its beneficiaries.

Deloitte's IMPACT Day is the cornerstone of a longstanding commitment to contributing back to the communities that we work and live in. Deloitte's corporate responsibility efforts go beyond IMPACT Day as Deloitte people are actively engaged in year-round initiatives including fundraising activities, providing pro-bono services, sponsorships, and other means of skills-based volunteerism that support the underserved young people.

ALS ice bucket challenge

On 25 August 2014, Deloitte Alumni Mark Koh nominated James Walton, Deputy Leader for Deloitte Singapore and SEA Clients & Markets, to take on the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Thereafter, James Walton nominated Lee Boon Teck, Deloitte Singapore Audit Partner who in turn nominated Seah Gek Choo, Deloitte Singapore's Talent Partner... who in turn nominated Philip Yuen, who gamely participated in the ALS bucket challenge after the morning at the Sports Hub on IMPACT DAY, witnessed by NorthLight students and teachers, and Deloitte Volunteers.

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge is aimed to promote awareness of the disease ALS and encourage donations to research.

After his turn, Philip passed on the challenge on to Regional Managing Partner (Enterprise Risk Services) Dr Janson Yap who had his turn on the last day of Deloitte Singapore's Inter-Departmental Games (IDG) held on 30 August 2014.

Click here to watch the videos of the ALS ice bucket challenge that happened at Deloitte:



In July 2014, Deloitte Singapore introduced the Audit Volunteer Initiative, which provides support to auditors who wish to take a sabbatical to do volunteer work locally or overseas, and make a difference in the communities around us. To support the teams who are keen to do this, Deloitte will provide half-paid sabbatical leave as well as financial support to help them carry out their volunteer work.

The first group that took part in this initiative comprised nine Deloitte Singapore Audit associates: Dai Mingmin, Eileen Lioe, Grace Low, Izaac Fong, Jason Koh, Krishna Srivalsan, Nathan Lee, Ng Soo Hwee and Sahana Qaundinya.

Named 'Gracious Hearts', their project involved teaching English and Mandarin to the young children of Ban Mueng Kan school in Chiang Rai, a province in Thailand. The team carried out their volunteer work from 26 July to 29 August 2014.

Prior to the trip, the group reached out to their colleagues in the Deloitte Singapore to raise funds to purchase stationery packs for the students. They received overwhelming support for the fundraising drive and were able to purchase more stationery packs that were given to the children from four other needy schools in the area. In addition, the funds raised were also used to purchase shelves, a cabinet and 20 English-Thai dictionaries, which were placed in the school library.

The team found the trip unique and memorable and had much to share about their experience. During the first two weeks, they held an English Camp where the English language was taught through dance, an activity that the students loved. They also played basketball, volleyball and soccer with the students after their lessons in the evening, which enabled both groups to forge stronger bonds.

Team member Soo Hwee shared that they had their fair share of challenges during the trip. "Our initial interaction with the students made us realise that their command of the English language was much lower than what we expected, which meant that we had to adjust our lesson plans accordingly. Thankfully, we had the help of the teachers who also acted as the translators. Gradually, the students were able to understand us better while we became more familiar with the Thai language and this helped lift the language barrier to a great extent," she said.

Soo Hwee added, "Despite the language barrier, the students were extremely receptive to our teaching methods and it was easy to interact with them. We tried to incorporate fun into the learning process and introduced different teaching methods, which worked out well. For instance, we taught the students how to read the time by making clocks using paper plates, and we played games such as 'Spelling Bee' and 'Hangman'. We focused more on conversational English and Mandarin for the older students and we would talk to them one-on-one during lessons to make sure that they could articulate their words correctly."

Another highlight of the trip was the weekend student home visits. The team was split into groups and each group followed the teachers to the different villages around the school to visit the students. It was an eye-opening experience for our volunteers as they were able to understand how the students spent their time at home and it was also a good opportunity for the teachers to update the parents on their children's progress in school.



Summing up her experience, Soo Hwee shared, "This was a very fruitful trip and taught us a lot, especially how we often fail to appreciate the simple things in life. Not only did we manage to forge new friendships with the students and teachers, we were also able to build greater bonds within our team. We are thankful to Deloitte for supporting us in this effort and the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of the underprivileged students."

The whole team is appreciative of Deloitte's support in their project. Apart from providing them with financial support, Deloitte Singapore Talent Partner, Seah Gek Choo and Audit Talent Manager, Jasmine Tan, had communicated regularly with the team to check on their progress and also met them up after the trip to hear their experiences. Said Gek Choo, "At Deloitte, we are committed to providing opportunities for staff to lead, to inspire and to make an impact. The Audit Volunteer Initiative is novel yet meaningful, allowing auditors to take a sabbatical to spend their time during their off-peak season for a worthy cause – giving back to communities and societies, something that we encourage our people to do."

The next volunteer group who embarked on the Audit Volunteer Initiative headed to Luang Prabang, a town in Laos, for two weeks from 14 to 26 September 2014, and comprises of seven Singapore Audit associates: Goh Jo-Lin, Grace Chia, Loo Eng Han, Lucy Zhang, Malcolm See, Marc Chua and Nanda Pawan. Their project, 'Project Lamok', involved teaching conversational English skills to the young adults in the area. They also imparted basic computer and English literacy skills to young children.



To find out more about what the team did during their trip to Chiang Rai, follow Deloitte Singapore's [Instagram account](#), [Twitter account](#) and search for the hashtag #DeloitteVolunteers to find out the impact they have made in the communities!

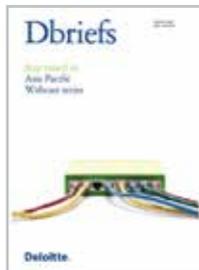


Asia Pacific Economic Outlook reports

Asia Pacific is the fastest growing and arguably the most important economic region in the world with most businesses, large and small, having interests there.

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Changing the game on cyber risk

Most reports on cyber security revolve around a common theme: despite heightened attention and unprecedented levels of security investment, the number of cyber incidents – and their associated costs – continues to rise. They typically point to the growing sophistication of hackers and other adversaries as a particularly intractable problem, and some deliberate over whether being secure is even possible in today's rapidly evolving landscape of cyber attacks. How can organisations reverse the growing gap between security investment and effectiveness in a world where it is not feasible to be 100 percent secure?

Download the full [report](#) for more information.



Global Cyber Executive Briefing

In a world increasingly driven by digital technologies and information, cyber-threat management is more than just a strategic imperative. It's a fundamental part of doing business. Yet for many C-suite executives and board members, the concept of cybersecurity remains vague and complex. Although it might be on your strategic agenda, what does it really mean? And what can your organization do to shore up its defenses and protect itself from cyber-threats? A common myth is that cyber-attacks only happen to certain types of organizations, such as high-profile technology businesses. However, the cold, hard truth is that every organization has valuable data to lose. In fact, the attacks that happen most frequently are completely indiscriminate – using scripted, automated tools that identify and exploit whatever weaknesses they happen to find.

Download the full [report](#) for more information.



Global Human Capital Trends: SEA version

The business landscape in Southeast Asia is changing, influenced by economic realignment, advances in technology, globalisation of markets, changing demographic trends, new customer needs and increased competition. This is radically altering how companies operate across the region. Therefore, applying existing methods to new and emerging human capital trends will not be enough. Organisations, and specifically HR leaders, will need to apply the same rigor, effort and sophistication to human capital planning as is provided to designing business strategy. This report is a special excerpt for Southeast Asia and is designed to complement the [Deloitte 2014 Global Human Capital Trends](#) report. The Deloitte 2014 Global Human Capital Trends survey represents the views of over 2500 business and HR executives in 90 countries, who answered a wide range of questions about their human capital challenges, capabilities, and key priorities for the year. Southeast Asia was well represented, with 54 respondents.

Download the full [report](#) for more information.

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