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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**MORE SUPPORT TO HELP SMES INTERNATIONALISE WITH  
iTalent SOLUTIONS MAP AND iSKILLS TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME**

**SINGAPORE, 26 JULY 2019** – Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking to expand their business overseas can tap on the new Internationalisation Talent (iTalent) Solutions Map and Internationalisation Skills (iSkills) Talent Development Programme to build their capabilities and skills.

***iTalent Solutions Map***

2 The iTalent Solutions Map was developed through a collaboration between SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) and the International Trading Institute at Singapore Management University (ITI@SMU), with support from Enterprise Singapore (ESG). It identifies critical internationalisation skills that enterprises need to develop in their workforce in order to operate effectively overseas. It was launched by Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Education today at SMU.

3 In developing the iTalent Solutions Map, ITI@SMU conducted a 12-month research study which involved 60 'internationalisers', including industry experts, academia, SME owners and employees from more than 30 Singapore-based companies. They provided insights into the opportunities and challenges faced before and during internationalisation, and the skills required to support their overseas businesses. The companies involved in the study include Commune, FoodXervices and Health Management International. More information on the iTalent Solutions Map is in [Annex A](#).



### ***iSkills Talent Development Programme***

4 Building on the iTalent Solutions Map, ITI@SMU designed the iSkills Talent Development, with Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) as its knowledge partner, to equip individuals with the necessary skills for internationalisation.

5 The six-month programme adopts an applied learning model that combines classroom, online and experiential learning. Participants will undertake real-life internationalisation projects with guidance from mentors assigned to them, experience overseas immersion modules, and participate in country clinics and sharing sessions with business and industry leaders.

6 The curriculum is designed to meet the skills needs of employees across various levels:

- Senior management level participants will be equipped with skills such as leadership, critical thinking, decision-making, digitalisation and cultural competence, to enable them to perform the functions of an entrepreneur, a strategy visionary and a master relationship builder.
- Junior and mid-level management participants will be equipped with skills such as project management, effective communication and cultural competence, which will help them perform the roles of a project manager and facilitator.

7 The one-year pilot of the iSkills Talent Development Programme will be conducted by ITI@SMU and NP, with the first course-run commencing in September 2019. So far, 18 SMEs have committed to sending their employees for this run. More information on the Programme is in [Annex B](#).



8 Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive of SSG, said, “We are committed to helping companies, especially SMEs, build skilled talent who can seize opportunities in international markets. Through the collaboration with ITI@SMU, we are making available useful insights and relevant training required to better prepare our companies and their workforce for overseas expansion. We will work with more partners to expand the iSkills Talent Development Programme so that more companies can benefit from it.”

9 Professor Timothy Clark, SMU Provost, said, “In the current dynamic and disruptive landscape, I am convinced that all stakeholders must work together to address the urgent need to help Singapore-based firms embrace internationalisation through human capital development. Over the years, SMU has developed an excellent track record built on its practice-based and hands-on curriculum, both for undergraduates and mid-career switchers. As an Institute of Higher Learning, I am pleased that our University now has this opportunity to play our part in providing a transformative education for SMEs that will serve to enhance their global footprint and relevance. We aim for these efforts to go a long way in shaping the next generation of local business leaders and talent for Singapore.”

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*For media queries please contact:*

SkillsFuture Singapore

Yvonne Pang (Ms)  
Assistant Director (Corporate Marketing and Communications)  
Mobile: 90626082  
Email: [yvonne\\_pang@ssg.gov.sg](mailto:yvonne_pang@ssg.gov.sg)

Cherlyn Tan (Ms)  
Manager (Corporate Marketing and Communications)  
Mobile: 98000108  
E-mail: [cherlyn\\_tan@ssg.gov.sg](mailto:cherlyn_tan@ssg.gov.sg)

Singapore Management University

Huang Peiling (Ms)  
Senior Assistant Director (Office of Corporate Communications and Marketing)  
Tel: 6828 0964 / Mobile: 9845 3361  
Email: [plhuang@smu.edu.sg](mailto:plhuang@smu.edu.sg)

Gary Ong (Mr)  
Senior Manager (International Trading Institute)  
DID: 6828 0967 / Mobile: 9488 2151  
Email: [garyong@smu.edu.sg](mailto:garyong@smu.edu.sg)

**About SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG)**

SSG drives and coordinates the implementation of the national SkillsFuture movement, promotes a culture of lifelong learning and strengthens the ecosystem of quality education and training in Singapore. Through a holistic system of national SkillsFuture initiatives, SSG enables Singaporeans to take charge of their learning journey in their pursuit of skills mastery. SSG also works with key stakeholders to ensure that students and adults have access to high quality and industry-relevant training that meet the demands of different sectors of the economy for an innovative and productive workforce.

For more information, visit [www.ssg.gov.sg](http://www.ssg.gov.sg).



## **About Singapore Management University**

Established in 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) is recognised for its high-impact multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance, and for its innovations in experiential learning. With 10,000 students, SMU offers bachelors, masters and PhD degree programmes in Accountancy, Business, Economics, Information Systems, Law and Social Sciences, and executive development programmes. Through its city campus, SMU enjoys strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community in Singapore and beyond. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

## **About ITI@SMU**

The International Trading Institute (ITI@SMU) was established as a tripartite partnership between the Singapore government, industry partners, and the Singapore Management University. It is think tank that supports the trade ecosystem with a steady pool of future ready talent, industry support programmes and impactful research.

At the undergraduate level, the Institute offers the International Trading Track (ITT) and the Maritime Business Operations Track (MBOT), which are designed to equip students with the essential knowledge and contextualised skills relevant for trading and maritime related roles.

ITI@SMU also plays a key role in the development of mid-career talent through the International Trading Professional Conversion Programme (PCP). Developed in partnership with Enterprise Singapore, Workforce Singapore and the International Chamber of Commerce, the PCP offers structured training to equip mid-career individuals with relevant knowledge in the areas of supply chain management, risk management, trade documentation and trade digitalisation.