

News Release

## National Athletes Pledge support for Persons with Special Needs



**Singapore, 1 March 2018** - Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN), a social service organisation, has launched its inaugural virtual run and six Singaporean athletes have rallied behind its cause to support persons with special needs.

Themed “Feat Beat”, **APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018** seeks to raise awareness for persons with special needs, whilst encouraging participants to step out of their comfort zone and push the boundaries of their abilities. From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, this non-competitive run allows participants to join the event by clocking mileage on their personal tracking devices, at their favourite course or trail.

The six runners are namely Dr Mok Ying Ren, Dr Ashley Liew, Benjamin Quek, Evan Chee, Ben Moreau and Benjamin Ooi. In total, they have collectively ran more than 100km for the **APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018**.

Double SEA Games Gold Medalist and National Marathoner, Dr Mok said “As we rally the running community together for more events, this is one group we can’t neglect. By integrating persons with special needs or mild intellectual disability, and raising awareness of their challenges, I hope we become an increasingly inclusive society through running.”

One of the athletes, Dr Liew, has volunteered with APSN during his schooling days. He recalls interacting with the students at APSN Katong School over games, and bringing them out on excursions. Now as a National Marathoner, and while preparing for his Tokyo Marathon, he sees this as another golden opportunity to give back to a worthy cause.

Ironman Triathlete, Benjamin Ooi is happy to step up for this challenge. He said, “It’s easy to become absorbed and insulated in our own worlds. While we focus on tackling the next big

challenge in our lives, there are also disadvantaged individuals who need some support to lead normal lives.”

Track and field para-athlete Suhairi Suhani, fronts the APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 campaign. Now an alumnus of APSN, he is proud to do his part and hopes for more persons with special needs to shine through running and sports.

This event is supported by the Singapore Disability Sports Council and ONEathlete through their outreach measures.

Dr Christopher Tay, CEO of APSN said, “APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 is an event that makes it accessible and easy for everyone to show support for the special needs community. Through this event, APSN seeks to educate the general public and advocate towards an inclusive society.”

**APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018** aims to raise \$250,000 through registration fees and corporate sponsorships. All proceeds will go a long way in supporting and enhancing APSN’s training, job placement and job support programmes to empower our beneficiaries to be active contributors to society.

A subcategory “APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 – Corporate Challenge” held from 5<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> February saw the support of many organisations, including Siemens Pte Ltd and Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd. A total distance of 647.2km was clocked by employees and management in support of persons with special needs.

For more information on the event, please visit: <http://www.apsn.org.sg/charityvr2018/>

Enclosed:

Annex A: Event Publicity Poster

Annex B: APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 - Corporate Challenge

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## About Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN)

Established in 1976, Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a social service organisation providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50-70). Today, APSN operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School), including a Student Care Centre, for students aged 7 to 21 and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons aged 17 and older, benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year.

The APSN Schools and Centre adopt a holistic approach in its curriculum, comprising academic, vocational and social skills which are important for open employment and lifelong learning. APSN seeks to enable persons with special needs to be active contributors of the society and is committed to inspire and build capabilities of its partners and community to lead and advocate an inclusive society.

To date, APSN's growing database has more than 5,000 alumni members. The Association is constantly expanding its network to reach out to and understand the needs of its members to better support them.

For more information on APSN, please visit [www.apsn.org.sg](http://www.apsn.org.sg).

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## Annex A: Event Publicity Poster



# FEAT BEAT

## APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018

**PUSH YOUR LIMITS TO SUPPORT PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

**Date:** 1 Feb to 15 Mar 2018  
**Venue:** Choose your favourite spot and run at your convenience!  
**Fee:** \$30.00 per runner

**Find out more at [www.apsn.org.sg/charityvr2018](http://www.apsn.org.sg/charityvr2018)**

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Step 1**



**Contribute \$30 on [www.apsn.give.asia/vr2018](http://www.apsn.give.asia/vr2018)**

**Step 2**



**Run! Log your distance, time and date on a running app**

**Step 3**



**Submit your best attempt before 15 Mar, 2359 hours**

**RUN Extended! to 15 March 2018**

**Stand a chance to win an iPhone X when you run more than 20km!**

**Suhairi Suhani, alumnus of APSN**

**Got a question?**  
**Email [partnerships@apsn.org.sg](mailto:partnerships@apsn.org.sg)**  
**Call 6708 9797**

Organised by: **APSN**  
 association for persons with special needs

Supported by: **ONE** ONE athlete run ONE, **SDSC** Singapore Disability Sports Council

Sponsored by: **GNC** LIVE WELL, **hp**

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## Annex B: APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 - Corporate Challenge

Corporate Challenge is a segment of APSN Charity Virtual Run 2018 which targets to raise \$100,000 with the help of employees. This forms a week-long event, organised in a bid to promote a healthy lifestyle amongst the staff through a common platform of running! The activity also encourages team bonding amongst colleagues and the opportunity to do some good while keeping fit.

From 5 Feb to 11 Feb 2018, employees from companies such as Siemens Pte Ltd and Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd participated by contributing a base donation of \$2,000. For every kilometre completed by staff, each corporation matched their effort by giving an added \$1 to APSN. The contributions per company was capped at \$5,000.

The effects of this activity will extend far beyond its run, as it was a chance for APSN to forge new relationships with corporate organisations. One such collaboration which started as a result of the virtual run is an initiative with Aegis for APSN Centre for Adults trainees to be hired as employees and scale up their training to do hotel works. Currently in the planning phase, such projects empower APSN trainees to be gainful staff as it capitalises on their strengths in undertaking repetitive tasks and work which requires attention to detail.

It is not difficult for the community to help persons with special needs, said Mr Yeong Wai Teck, Managing Director of Aegis. He said, "All of us enjoyed ourselves today, everyone is running 10 rounds minimum, and we hope to create awareness, keep fit, engage in team building and raise money for APSN."

Via the Corporate Challenge stood an opportunity for APSN to strengthen and re-establish the ties of longstanding partnerships. Siemens has been a loyal supporter of APSN's cause for more than four years – from sending staff volunteers to help with activities at APSN Katong School and the APSN Centre for Adults to purchasing APSN Bakery Enterprise confectionaries.

This run was a timely call for some staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Mr Rajat Nag, Senior Vice President, Ultrasound, Asia Pacific of Siemens, said "We are here to support APSN's cause for support of children with intellectual disabilities. I was falling behind my exercise regimen, and when this event came along, I thought it was a great way to get back on track and support a good cause."





*A team of 13 from Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd clocked their run around the track at Serangoon Stadium on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Together, they logged a total distance of 56km.*



*A time for team building via recreational running for Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd.*



*Mr Rajat Nag from Siemens Pte Ltd works out in the gym to clock the kilometres in support of persons with special needs.*