

IHG Hotels & Resorts form strategic partnership with APSN

Apprenticeships and training programmes extended to all IHG hotels in Singapore



Left to right: **Stanley Tang**, Chief Executive Officer, APSN Ltd, **Royce Seah**, Vice Chairman, APSN Ltd, **Rajit Sukumaran**, Managing Director, South East Asia and Korea, IHG Hotels & Resorts and **Vivek Bhalla**, Vice President, Operations, South East Asia and Korea, IHG Hotels & Resorts
Backdrop: Lanterns hand painted by the students and alumni of APSN

Singapore – 14 September 2021: [IHG Hotels & Resorts](#) and APSN (fka Association for Persons with Special Needs) are proud to announce a strategic partnership to provide support, jobs and training for APSN's students and trainees across all IHG hotels in Singapore.

The agreement includes an apprenticeship programme aimed at helping the students and trainees realise their potential, and offers employment and training opportunities, including courses on hospitality, and food and beverage. Colleagues across IHG hotels and office in Singapore will raise funds, conduct workshops and commit volunteering hours as a key part of the venture.

APSN is a social service agency focused on developing individuals with special needs and enabling them to lead dignified, fulfilling and independent lives. It prepares beneficiaries for employment and success via education and vocational training initiatives from their early years through to adulthood.

This announcement comes during IHG's Giving for Good month of September, where colleagues across the globe go the extra mile to make a difference in their communities by giving back and giving thanks. It's part of [Journey To Tomorrow](#) – IHG's 10-year action plan of clear commitments to drive change for its people, communities and planet, in association with [IHG's 2030 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion commitments](#) which champion a diverse culture where everyone can thrive.

Rajit Sukumaran, Managing Director, South East Asia & Korea, IHG and Chairman of the SEAK DE&I Council, said: "I am excited to announce this fantastic partnership with APSN. Diversity, equity and inclusion is an integral part of IHG's culture and we are committed to serving the communities in which we operate. More than three decades have passed since 1989 when Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre became a pioneer in Singapore in hiring people with different abilities. Today, 5% our full-time workforce are people with different abilities, and most of our full-serviced hotels in Singapore are accredited with the SG-enabling mark.

“I am incredibly proud of our leaders across the business who have continually driven and supported DE&I initiatives in Singapore. As travel recovers and Singapore gradually opening its borders to international travel, I’m confident that our partnership with APSN will be further strengthened as we continue to work together to make an impact in our community by creating job and training opportunities and an environment that is truly understanding of others, and embraces differences.”

Royce Seah, Vice-Chairman, APSN Ltd. said: “We are honoured to be IHG’s adopted charity, and are grateful for the steadfast support all these years. It is indeed a true demonstration of a compassionate organisation embracing a strong sense of purpose, which cares and supports diversity and inclusivity. This collaborative partnership will open new doors of opportunity on various fronts for our special needs students and trainees with mild intellectual disability, furthering our mission of empowering and guiding them into an inclusive society.”

IHG has worked closely with APSN for many years to provide full-time employment opportunities, on-the-job training and internships, and organises regular social activities for students in its hotels in Singapore. In turn, APSN conducts training for IHG hotel teams so that they may help its graduates adapt to their new work environment and learn valuable life skills. They take on roles including public area attendants, kitchen stewards, bellmen and servers, and the average stay of each full-time graduate has reached six years.

Thng Kai Bin, APSN graduate and winner of the NTUC May Day Model Worker 2021 award, has worked full-time at Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium since 2013. After starting as a public area attendant, he became a bellman, helping guests with their luggage and other requests.

He said: “I’m so happy to have this opportunity. As a bellman, I talk to guests and help them, which is something I really love doing. My colleagues taught me everything about the role, especially how to greet people. I like to meet people and give them a good experience when they visit. I can do that at Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium, and I hope I can continue working here for as long as possible.”

The strategic partnership includes all IHG hotels in Singapore, including recently announced Holiday Inn Singapore Little India, Crowne Plaza Changi Airport, Holiday Inn Express Singapore Clarke Quay, InterContinental Singapore, InterContinental Singapore Robertson Quay, Holiday Inn Singapore Atrium, Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, Hotel Indigo Singapore Katong, Holiday Inn Express Singapore Katong, Holiday Inn Express Singapore Orchard and Holiday Inn Express Singapore Serangoon.

IHG has nearly 6,000 hotels in more than 100 countries and 350,000 colleagues representing a wide variety of nationalities, cultures, religions, abilities and backgrounds. Caring for its people, communities and planet has been at the heart of IHG’s business for many years and, through *Journey To Tomorrow*, it will continue to champion a diverse culture where everyone can thrive and deliver True Hospitality For Good.

Note to Editor:

Media Assets for [download](#)

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About IHG Hotels & Resorts

[IHG Hotels & Resorts](#) [LON:IHG, NYSE:IHG (ADRs)] is a global hospitality company, with a purpose to provide True Hospitality for Good.

With a family of 17 hotel brands and [IHG Rewards](#), one of the world's largest hotel loyalty programmes, IHG has nearly 6,000 open hotels in more than 100 countries, and a further 1,800 in the development pipeline.

- **Luxury & Lifestyle:** [Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas](#), [Regent Hotels & Resorts](#), [InterContinental Hotels & Resorts](#), [Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants](#), [Vignette Collection](#), [Hotel Indigo](#)
- **Premium:** [HUALUXE Hotels & Resorts](#), [Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts](#), [EVEN Hotels](#), [voco Hotels](#)
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InterContinental Hotels Group PLC is the Group's holding company and is incorporated and registered in England and Wales. Approximately 350,000 people work across IHG's hotels and corporate offices globally.

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About APSN

Established in 1976, APSN is a social service agency that provides special education for the mild intellectual disability community. Benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year, APSN currently operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School) for students between the ages of 7 and 21, an APSN Student Care Centre for children from 7 to 18 years old and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons from 18 years old and older.

The APSN Schools and Centres 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.

For more details about APSN's programmes and services, visit www.apsn.org.sg. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) (@sgapsn) for latest updates.

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