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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **APSN'S INCLUSIVE RUNWAY SHOW ELEVATES DISABILITY AWARENESS WITH SUPPORT FROM CORPORATE 'GIANTS'**

*Celebrating how every partner, donor, and beneficiary forms part of Singapore's inclusive social fabric*

**Singapore, 28 November 2025** – APSN's Charity Fashion Gala 2025, themed "Threads of Aspiration", brought together more than 300 partners, donors, and supporters last evening to champion vocational pathways and social inclusion for persons with mild intellectual disability. Graced by Guest-of-Honour Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower, the gala raised funds to expand APSN's training and employment programmes aimed at strengthening Singapore's inclusive workforce.

From runway pieces co-created by APSN beneficiaries and Temasek Polytechnic students to the live auction of a Liverpool FC jersey signed by Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson, the evening was filled with creativity, purpose and energy. Adding to the excitement, Miss Universe Singapore 2025, Ms Annika Sager, and her fellow runner-ups and finalists joined the APSN Inclusive Ensemble in a performance that symbolised unity across talent, inclusivity, and community.

APSN's Chaoyang School presented their Beijing cultural exchange performance once again, after first showcasing it before distinguished embassy and foreign delegates.

Anchoring the night was the debut of the APSN Giants Awards, which honoured nine corporate and community partners for their outstanding contributions in Philanthropy, Advocacy, Volunteering, and Employment (PAVE). Their support has made a tangible impact on APSN's mission and helped pave crucial pathways to independence for our beneficiaries. These awardees are true "Giants" of the community—lending not only resources, but also credibility, expertise, and vital industry access. APSN beneficiaries proudly stand on the shoulders of these giants as we continue empowering those we serve. *(See Annex A for more information on the APSN Giants Awards 2025)*

Among our awardees is our key event sponsor, Marina Bay Sands, who was recognised as an APSN Giant for its immense, sustained, and holistic support over the last decade. A centrepiece of this partnership is their exceptional donation-in-kind — generously providing the venue and outstanding hospitality that make the APSN Charity Fashion Gala possible.

Beyond tonight, Marina Bay Sands continues to champion inclusion through initiatives such as its Sands for Singapore Charity Festival, which has helped amplify APSN's mission and visibility through fundraising, staff volunteerism and engagement with the wider community.

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“We are heartened to have like-minded partners who understand the importance of stepping forward to be part of the woven fabric that makes an inclusive society possible,” said Mr Stanley Tang, CEO of APSN. “Their commitment fills the gaps, strengthens the tapestry, and helps fulfil the aspirations of our special needs community.”

One beneficiary who has directly benefited from funds raised through such events is Ms Carol Ho, whose journey reflects the gala’s theme. Diagnosed with mild intellectual disability, Carol once struggled with confidence and daily challenges, but with APSN’s training and employer partnerships, she now thrives as a Public Area Attendant at Hotel Indigo, a brand under APSN Giants Gold awardee IHG Hotels & Resorts.

Not only has Carol worked towards an independent life and career, but her growing confidence has also spilled over into many other aspects of her life. In 2023, with the support of her teachers, she represented Singapore as a delegate at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany competing in the 400m race and mini javelin events. Tonight, she returned as a model — stepping onto the runway with pride and demonstrating what becomes possible when individuals are given the opportunity to shine.

### **Join the Movement**

Funds raised from the gala will support APSN’s vocational training and employment services. These vital programmes equip individuals with mild intellectual disability with the skills needed for meaningful integration into Singapore’s workforce and community. In 2024, APSN’s achieved a 100% job retention rate in a span of twelve months. This stands as a strong testament to the quality of its programmes and the unwavering dedication of its job coaches.

APSN invites members of the public to be part of this woven tapestry of community support. To contribute or explore ways to make a difference, please click [here](#).

### **About APSN Charity Fashion Gala 2025**

As our key fundraising event, the APSN Charity Fashion Gala aims to provide beneficiaries with special needs the opportunity to walk the runway with confidence, showcasing exclusive, customised and sustainable accessories. These unique pieces are inspired by their creativity and co-created with fashion design students from Temasek Polytechnic.

Themed “Threads of Aspiration”, this year’s gala celebrates the abilities of our beneficiaries and empowers them through fashion and the arts. By using upcycled materials, we shine a spotlight on the talents of these remarkable individuals.

In addition to honouring our beneficiaries, we will also be presenting awards to several of our corporate partners in recognition of their unwavering support for APSN. This is an opportunity to acknowledge those who have played a vital role in advancing our mission.

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The event will be attended by corporate and community partners, caregivers, and potential new employment partners—creating valuable opportunities for connection and collaboration. Funds raised will directly support our trainees by equipping them with essential workforce skills through vocational training, on-the-job training and employment support services.

### **About APSN**

APSN, a leading social service agency in Singapore, has been empowering individuals with mild intellectual disabilities (IQ 50-70) since 1976. Through a holistic approach to education, vocational training, and employment support, APSN has helped over 6,900 beneficiaries achieve their full potential.

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, APSN Student Care Centre for children from 7 to 18 years old, APSN Centre for Adults for persons from 18 years and older, and APSN Learning Hub for working professionals and other stakeholders. With this network of schools, centres, and support services, APSN provides comprehensive care for individuals at all stages of life.

Under the patronage of Ms Jane Ittogi, APSN continues to expand its reach and impact, partnering with organisations to create a more inclusive environment for all. APSN has attained the Enabling Mark (Gold), a national-level accreditation framework by SG Enable that benchmarks and recognises organisations for their best practices and outcomes in disability-inclusive employment.

### **Event Details**

**Date:** 28 Nov 2025

**Venue:** Marina Bay Sands, 10 Bayfront Ave, Begonia Main Ballroom

**Time:** 6:30pm to 9pm (6:30pm - 6:50pm pre-event cocktail)

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

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Click [here](#) or scan the QR code below to download the photos



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### **Annex A(i)**

	<b>Recipient of APSN Giants Awards</b>	<b>Awards Category</b>
1.	DHL Express (Singapore) Pte Ltd	Silver
2.	National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)	Silver
3.	SMRT Buses	Silver
4.	ABR Holdings Limited	Gold
5.	Aston Food and Beverage Specialities Pte Ltd	Gold
6.	IHG Hotels and Resorts	Gold
7.	IKEA Singapore	Gold
8.	Marina Bay Sands	Gold
9	Z Zurich Foundation	Gold

### **Annex A(ii)**

	<b>Four Pillars of APSN Partnership</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>P</b>	Philanthropy	Partners who make significant financial contributions or in-kind donations.
<b>A</b>	Advocacy	Partners who actively championed our cause through strong and consistent public support, influenced policies favourable to the organisation, and/or led successful advocacy campaigns.
<b>V</b>	Volunteerism	Partners with a high volume of volunteer hours or consistent participation across multiple initiatives.
<b>E</b>	Employment	Partners who actively hire APSN beneficiaries and implement inclusive employment practices with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion principles.