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EMPOWERING FUTURES: APSN SHOWCASES YOUTH VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AT ANNUAL SKILLS CHALLENGE

Singapore, 3 October 2026 – APSN brought together students and trainees from across its schools and centres for the annual One APSN Skills Showcase Challenge, a platform for APSN beneficiaries with intellectual disability to demonstrate their vocational and creative capabilities in the presence of potential employers and industry partners. The event was graced by Mr Foo Cexiang, Minister of State for Manpower and Trade and Industry. Employers and vocational partners also attended the competition and toured APSN's industry-standard training facilities, gaining a closer look at the skills and capabilities developed by APSN students and trainees.

From Training to Employment

Held in APSN's Golden Jubilee year and themed *"Through the Jubilee: A Colourful Curriculum Journey"*, the showcase brought together participants from APSN Centre for Adults, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School, reflecting APSN's continued commitment to developing the potential of persons with intellectual disability over the past 50 years.

Participants were given one hour to complete and present tasks demonstrating skills developed through their vocational training. More than a competition, the showcase provided potential employers with an opportunity to see their capabilities first-hand and better understand how persons with intellectual disability can contribute meaningfully to the workplace.

The event also highlighted APSN's efforts to bridge vocational training and employment by equipping beneficiaries with practical, industry-relevant skills and creating pathways towards meaningful employment.

APSN's commitment to inclusive employment extends beyond the training it provides. As an employer, APSN also practises inclusive hiring and has been recognised with the Enabling Mark – in the Gold category by SG Enable for its efforts in disability-inclusive employment. This reflects APSN's wider approach to inclusion — supporting persons with disability not only in developing skills for the workplace, but also by creating an inclusive workplace within the organisation itself. APSN's vocational training is also supported by the Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) framework, further strengthening the connection between training and industry needs.

"As the National Agency for Disability, SG Enable works with our partners to strengthen the ecosystem of support for persons with disabilities and to create more pathways for them to participate and contribute through meaningful employment. Events like the One APSN Skills Showcase Challenge demonstrate the skills and capabilities that persons with intellectual disabilities can bring to the workplace when given the right training and opportunities. We are heartened to see our community and industry partners come together to recognise these capabilities and open up more opportunities. True inclusive employment begins when employers look beyond disabilities and focus on abilities." Said Mr Lim Tze Yang, Deputy Director, Employment and Employability, SG Enable.

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Turning Skills into Employment: Jeff's Journey

One example is Jeff Toa, an alumnus of APSN Delta Senior School, who was trained in Facilities and Laundry Operations before discovering an interest in guest services through APSN's Work

Experience Programme (WEP). During his placement at Mercure ICON Singapore City Centre, Jeff adapted to a fast-paced hospitality environment while building his confidence, stamina and independence. His positive attitude and willingness to learn were recognised by his supervisors, colleagues and guests, and he was subsequently offered open employment at the hotel.

Today, Jeff continues to pursue his aspiration to build a career as a bellman. He hopes to bring smiles to guests through his work, become more independent and support his mother, who has been a strong pillar in his life.

Building More Pathways to Employment

Looking ahead, APSN Delta Senior School will continue to expand its Supported Vocational Training (SVT) to provide differentiated employment pathways that cater to the varying strengths, interests and support needs of its students. This will further strengthen their transition from school to employment and provide more opportunities for students to develop skills aligned with their individual abilities and aspirations.

"Our students take great pride in preparing for this competition. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt, while gaining confidence and a sense of achievement from putting their skills into practice in front of industry partners and potential employers," said Dr Anthony Fok, Chairman of APSN

ANNEX A: VOCATIONAL FACILITIES TOUR

	Tour Stops	Description
1	Industry-Standard F&B Kitchen	Modelled after a commercial kitchen, the facility allows students to practise culinary techniques, food presentation and food safety procedures in a realistic working environment.
2	Aquaponics	Modern soil-less systems introduce students to sustainable and chemical-free food production, with students participating in different stages of the growing process.
3	Horticulture: Plant Tissue Culture Lab	The specialised laboratory gives students foundational experience in sterile media preparation and the germination of orchid seedlings using agar media.
4	Warehousing: Aspire Nexus	Modelled after a working warehouse, the facility exposes students to contemporary warehousing operations and equipment, including load-carrying robots and warehouse management systems.
5	Office Spaces: Shamrock Room	Realistic office environments allow students to develop practical facilities-management skills, including office cleaning, workplace hygiene and the safe operation of equipment such as walk-behind scrubbers and carpet extractors.

ANNEX B: PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES

	Photo Stops	Description
1	Welcoming March-in	- Welcoming guests and judges - March-in participants, trainers and instructors.
2	Commencement of Skill Challenge	- Participants demonstrate their vocational skills at their respective stations. - Action shots of participants performing tasks independently and with confidence. - Judges observing, assessing, and interacting with participants. - Trainers and instructors support the challenge, where appropriate.
3	GOH (10:00 am)	- Guest of Honour's arrival and welcome by APSN leadership at 10:00am. - Speech by Guest of Honour at 11:15am - Presentation of token of appreciation to Guest of Honour at 11:25am
4	Facilities Tour (10:45–11:00 am)	- GOH touring and exploring the facilities. - Interactions with staff and students at each location. - Wide shots showcasing the facilities and learning environments.

About APSN

Established in 1976, APSN is a social service agency that supports individuals with mild intellectual disability through special education, vocational training and employment support. To date, APSN has supported over 6,900 beneficiaries to realise their potential.

APSN operates four Special Education schools — APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School—for students aged 7 to 21. In June 2026, APSN introduced the APSN Chaozheng Programme to further support students with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability.

Complementing its schools are the APSN Student Care Centre, APSN Centre for Adults, and APSN Learning Hub, providing comprehensive training and support from youth to adulthood. Under the patronage of Ms Jane Ittogi, APSN partners closely with the community to foster an inclusive society and holds the Enabling Mark (Gold) accreditation from SG Enable.

For more information, please visit www.apsn.org.sg.

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Please scan the QR Code to access photos of the event.



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