Hackathon 2019 Highlights

Collaboration between ISPE Singapore Affiliate,

Young Professionals and Student Chapter

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Executive Summary

The first ISPE Singapore Affiliate Hackathon competition was organised on the 21st and 22nd August 2019. It was a collaborative effort between ISPE Student Chapter and Young Professionals committee. The event focused on participants solving an actual industrial case study for a full 24 hours and presenting the outcome to judges on the second day. A positive response was received from the participants, coaches and judges. The overall event was successful and future plans to continue having Hackathon organised annually will be considered.

Background

ISPE conferences have traditionally held poster competitions to encourage participation of students from Higher Learning Institutes to network and showcase their capabilities. For industry professionals, this is also a platform to spot future talent for their organization.

However, the student poster competition is academic by nature. It does not showcase the student capabilities in working in groups, managing project priorities and application to industry.

ISPE Europe have been hosting hackathons for the past 3 years. Hackathons involve competition in teams and a focus on solving actual industrial problems. They also allow coaches (typically industry professionals and other young professionals) to mentor and guide participants to define the problem and to formulate the business case. This challenge provides opportunities for students and YPs to bond through experiential learning and working on a common problem to devising a solution.

This year, the ISPE Singapore affiliate invited the Student Chapter (SC) and Young Professionals (YP) committee to co-organize the Hackathon in conjunction with the Singapore affiliate's annual conference & exhibition.



Picture 1: Group Photo at the closure of the ISPE Hackathon Event

The Hackathon

From 21st to 22nd August 2019, the 2019 ISPE Singapore Annual Conference held its first Hackathon, with over 20 Young Professionals and students from across Asia and Europe participating.

Teams of 4 to 5 people were presented with a challenging scenario: a multinational corporation anticipating a decline in sales to competition from generics due to its patent expiration.

The groups were given information on the manufacturing site, volume and price forecast of the drug to devise an out-sourcing business case to relocate the production capabilities from its current manufacturing site based in Europe to a location in Asia.

They were to utilize the ISPE baseline guides, articles from the Pharmaceutical Engineering magazines and the internet to define the problem statement, perform a risk assessment and develop the business case. Coaches were available on the first day of the hackathon to guide teams.

Participants were enthusiastic, and many stayed late in the evening to develop their solution.

On the second day, the teams presented the hackathon case study to a panel of judges, coaches and other teams, followed by a series of questions and answers.



Picture 2: Briefing by Vice Chair of YP Committee



Picture 3: Briefing by Chair of Student Committee



Picture 4: Participants discussing the case study



Picture 5: Presentation of the Case Study using project management tool: SWOT analysis

Post-event Activities

After the presentations and while the judges deliberated, there were talks by Ms Kelly Keen, past ISPE Singapore President and member of ISPE Board of Directors, young professional Harriet Horky from Roche Switzerland and 2018 Global Student Poster winner, C.Y. Rodriguez from Philippines.

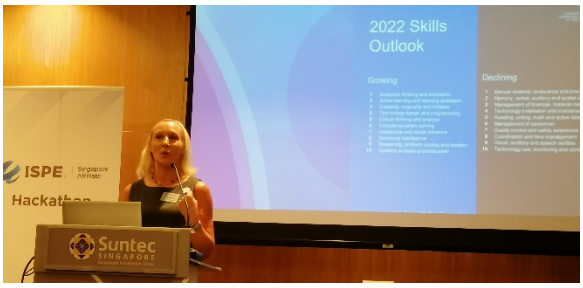
Then the results of the Hackathon were announced during Pharmanite.

The winning group was a multinational team consisting of members from the Philippines, Austria, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

Matthew Ong from Singapore, earned the Most Valued Player (MVP) Award, based on his presentation and his ability to handle the Q&A session during the Hackathon Judging segment.

After the Hackathon, the event organizing committee and participants gathered for a celebration meal. It also enabled the overseas participants to discover Singapore with their hosts.

The hackathon was a success with enthusiastic and positive feedback from participants and the judges. Two of the judges have even expressed interest to be judges for the next hackathon.



Picture 6: Speech by Ms Kelly Keen



Picture 7: Winning Team (Left to Right): Rachel Fernandez, Fabian Mayr, Matthew Ong, Chiayakarn Pornpitchanarong and Ulfah Laily Azizah



Picture 8: Student Chapter & YP Committee celebrating with the Hackathon MVP



Picture 9: Post Hackathon celebration of the participants and the event organizing committee with Singapore Delicacies



Picture 10: ISPE Hackathon Organizing Committee Left to Right: Tina Lan, Wong Jianwei, David Yee, Steve Wang, Alan Chua, Henry Chan, Charles Zhou, Aston Chia, Trixie Belle, Jeron Tam



Picture 11: Hackathon Judges and Coaches meeting, Left to Right: David Yee (Coach), Georg Singewald (Judge), KPP Prasad (Judge), Julia Gandhi (Judge), Brajesh Karjee (Judge), Wong Jianwei (Coach), Charles Zhou (Event Project Manager)

Acknowledgements

Judges

Prasad KPP	Site Leader, Pfizer Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
Brajesh Karjee	Janssen Global Supply Chain-Asia Pacific, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and Johnson
Julia Gandhi	Director Sr Consultant, Gee An Pte Ltd
Georg Singewald	Head of Global Quality Control, VP at F.Hoffmann-La Roche & Co

Coaches

Henry Chan	Director, Americor Resources
Daniel Dong	Consultant , HGP Asia
Tina Lan	Consultant, HGP Asia

ISPE Singapore Affiliate Main Committee

Linda Wan	Events Director
Kristina Autenrieth	Affiliate Manager
Lee Hong Ping	Director of Sales, Exyte Singapore Pte Ltd
Steve Wang	Process Engineer, Life Sciences, Exyte Singapore Pte Ltd
Alan Chua	Student Committee Advisor & Validation Engineer, No deviation Pte Ltd

ISPE Young Professionals Committee

Wong Jianwei	Validation Engineer, Americor Resources
David Yee	Validation Engineer, Hyde Engineering + Consulting

ISPE Student Chapter Executive Committee

Aston Chia Kai Suan	President
Charles Zhou Meikun	Communication Director
Jeron Tam	Treasurer