

Professional Development Conference 2017 @ Yangon

Because of Today, you can expect greater things Tomorrow!

YANGON, Sep 25, 2017 – More than 30 Professionals from Singapore descended upon Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar, during the week of September 25. They had only one goal – to address Myanmar’s talent shortage by leveraging the skills, knowledge and experience of the Professionals from Singapore to equip the management staff in Myanmar so that they can take their economy to the next level.



Picture 1: The Conference Speakers with Chairman, FT Liu (seated 8th from left) flanked by Ms Shwe Zin Ma on his left and Mr Nicholas Naing on his right, President and CEO respectively of Trust Synergy International Pte Ltd.

In March, a recce trip to Yangon was made by 30 Professionals from Singapore through a Travel and Learn Programme organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic and supported by IE Singapore. They witnessed first hand the economy of Myanmar developing at 6 per cent, one of the fastest growing in ASEAN. In meetings with representatives from the Singapore Embassy, Singapore companies and Multinationals operating in Myanmar as well as some of Myanmar’s top 200 companies and Government Agencies, the key people spoke of the difficulty in finding and keeping local staff with the right skills, knowledge and experience.

Since independence in 1965, Singapore has gone through the same journey of economic transformation that Myanmar is now going through. Singaporeans benefitted from professionals from the developed world who shared their management, finance and technical skills. In the process, Singapore’s education system was also transformed to one that is world class. Today, it is their turn to share these skills, knowledge and experience with the Professionals in Myanmar.

Descending on Yangon as a pack, the more than 30 Professionals from Singapore brought with them a broad range of management, finance and technical skills as

well as folks who had a good grasp of the Singapore education system, in particular the Singapore approach to teaching Mathematics, which is world class. Working with a local partner, Trust Synergy International Pte Ltd, the Professional Development Conference 2017 (PDC2017) was launched with a big bang at the Sule Shangri-La, Yangon's premier hotel.



Picture 2: A portion of the Professionals from Myanmar who turned up for two days of Executive Overview Sessions on 26 & 27 Sep in Ballroom 2 of Sule Shangri-La, Yangon.

The Conference, which was spread over four days, attracted a crowd of close to 200 Professionals from Myanmar. Armed with a Conference Pass, they were entitled to attend any of the 50 Executive Overview Sessions (EOS) conducted on the first two days. During each EOS, the speaker was given one hour to share his or her skills and knowledge on the given topic and how their experience can help the participants advance their career and contribute to the organisations they represent. If the participants were interested to learn more, they could sign up for the workshops on the third and fourth day.

Three keynote speakers were invited to grace the occasion. The keynote speaker from Myanmar was Ms Grace Swe Zin Htaik, former Myanmar Motion Picture Academy Award winner and current Secretary, International Relations Committee, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation. As a Professional with multiple awards both locally and internationally, Ms Grace Swe's commitment to

her profession was an inspiration to the Professionals in Myanmar. Ms Low Peck Kem, Chief Human Resource Officer from the Prime Minister's Office, Singapore and Mr Lee Leong Seng, Managing Director, Surbana International Consultants (Myanmar) Co Ltd were the two keynote speakers from Singapore. With "people" as the only resource, Peck Kem shared the Singapore Government's approach to Human Resource development. Heading an urban, industrial and infrastructure consulting firm in Myanmar, Leong Seng shared how the company grew from 7 to 72 professionals over the past four years. He challenged the audience to seize the PDC2017 opportunity to invest in themselves and be a game changer in Myanmar's developing economy.

The audience was appreciative of the objective of PDC2017, the high standards of the Conference and what the Professionals from Singapore had to offer. "Your contribution to the Professionals in Myanmar is highly appreciated," said Keynote Speaker Ms Grace Swe, which reflected the feelings of the participants.

Many Professionals from Myanmar who may not have the opportunity to travel overseas for such training now have access to them in Yangon. At the same time, companies who may not have the budget to send their staff overseas now find it more cost effective to send them to the public workshops in Yangon.

With their presence known in Yangon through PDC2017, the Professionals from Singapore now have the opportunity follow-up with subsequent public or in-house workshops over the next ten months until PDC2018 is held in July next year. This is only the beginning.

For more information, please visit www.pdc2017.com or contact the following:

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