

Science Centre Board Signs MoU with SG Enable, a Reinforcement of Their Commitment to Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

SINGAPORE, 28 March 2024 — Science Centre Board (SCB) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SG Enable, solidifying their joint commitment to promoting inclusivity and accessibility to STEM learning for all Singaporeans. This partnership marks a significant step forward in ensuring that learning is viewed holistically with the lens of catering to a diverse range of learning styles.

At the heart of the agreement lies a shared vision to enhance the accessibility of learning experiences at the Science Centre Singapore (SCS) for persons with disabilities, particularly as SCB looks towards the opening of their New Science Centre.

SCB and SG Enable's partnership emphasises "Accessibility and Universal Design", ensuring that the Science Centre's spaces, exhibits, and facilities are sensory-friendly and accessible. This involves conducting audits, implementing inclusive design principles, and providing assistive technologies. They will also develop inclusive "Programme Development and Public Education" initiatives, collaborate on "Training and Capacity Building" to equip employees with disability awareness, and offer "Employment and Internship Opportunities". Additionally, the partnership extends to "Research and Evaluation", aiming to continuously improve inclusive offerings by collecting feedback and analysing data.

"The collaboration with SG Enable represents a monumental leap in our mission to make STEM education accessible to all. By leveraging SG Enable's extensive network, we are not just reaching SPED schools and students but embracing a broader spectrum of learners. STEM is about opportunity and inclusion, and we want to ensure no one is left behind. This MoU is not about making a statement; it is a commitment as we don't want to let any aspiring STEM professional fall through the cracks. We are opening our doors wider than ever before, inviting suggestions, and pledging to incorporate them into both our existing and future facilities," emphasised Associate Professor Lim Tit Meng, Chief Executive of the Science Centre Board.

"This partnership with Science Centre Board reinforces our shared commitment to inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities. Together, we will work towards expanding Science Centre Singapore's reach to persons with disabilities, ensuring that everyone has equal access to the wealth of learning opportunities it offers," said Ku Geok Boon, CEO of SG Enable.

The diverse needs and abilities of persons with disabilities present a multifaceted challenge for employers striving to create inclusive environments. Addressing this challenge head-on, SCB is committed to leading by example in providing employment and internship opportunities for persons with disabilities. Through tailored jobs, necessary accommodations, and inclusive hiring practices, SCB is setting a new standard for disability-inclusive workplaces. Moreover, in



alignment with the Enabling Masterplan 2030, SCB will participate in community events at the Enabling Business Hub (EBH) in Jurong, as part of SCB's efforts in reaching out to a wider demographic for lifelong learning and inclusive employment.

SCB is also a signatory of The Enabling Employment Pledge (EEP) to show its support for inclusive hiring, and to also receive guidance on the hiring journey (e.g. Advice from employment consultants, access to workshops, networking events, etc.). SCB will also strive towards attaining the Enabling Mark, which will solidify its status as a beacon of disability-inclusive employment.

In commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day, observed annually on 2 April, SCS is proud to announce a series of impactful activities and workshops designed to offer a firsthand glimpse into the daily experiences of persons with disabilities.

From 28 March to 31 March 2024, SCS ticket holders will have the opportunity to participate in these complimentary activities and workshops, running from 10 am to 5 pm daily. Facilitated by esteemed partners such as Art:Dis and Guide Dogs Singapore, guests can expect immersive experiences including water marbling, cyanotype printing, Braille name card making, and introductory learning of Singapore Sign Language. KidsSTOP™ ticket holders will be able to attend complimentary storytelling workshops that educate young children on autism, conducted by Helang Books. Guests will also get the chance to purchase creations made by persons with disabilities, as well as savour delicious food prepared by social enterprise Project Dignity.

Join us as we come together to celebrate diversity and embrace the invaluable contributions of individuals of all abilities.

For more information on the activities held from 28 March to 31 March, visit: <u>https://www.science.edu.sg/whats-on/workshops-activities/WAAD2024</u>

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About Science Centre Singapore

Science Centre Singapore, a non-formal educational institution and leading regional Science Centre, along with its group of attractions, brings out the wonders of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through its unique blend of exhibitions, educational programmes and events. A custodian of creativity and innovation, Science Centre Singapore has captured the evolution of scientific developments for more than four decades.

The Centre and its partners have played a pivotal role in transforming the way students and the public interact with and learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Since 1977, the Centre has welcomed over 30 million visitors and inspired them with more than 1,000 exhibits spread across 14 exhibition galleries and outdoor exhibition spaces.

The Centre's group of attractions include Omni-Theatre, Snow City and KidsSTOP[™]. The Omni-Theatre, Southeast Asia's first 8K 3D digital theatre with a 23m wide seamless dome screen, is an immersive destination like no other. Snow City is Singapore's only permanent indoor snow centre offering an Arctic inspired experience at Singapore's first ice gallery and snow chamber. KidsSTOP[™] - Where every child gets to Imagine, Experience, Discover and Dream - is Singapore's first children's science centre offering an enriching experience through purposeful play for children aged 18 months to 8 years old. For more information, please visit www.science.edu.sg.

About SG Enable

SG Enable, the focal agency for disability and inclusion in Singapore, enables persons with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in an inclusive society. We create equitable opportunities for persons with disabilities through thought leadership, sustainable social innovation and impactful partnership. Guided by our core values of professionalism, innovation and empathy, we envision a more inclusive Singapore and enabled lives. Set up by the Ministry of Social and Family Development in 2013, we are a registered charity and an Institution of a Public Character. For more information, visit <u>www.sgenable.sg.</u>

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