

News Release

Yellow Ribbon Singapore Strengthens Connections with Industry Stakeholders to Build Support for Ex-Offenders Rejoining the Workforce

Singapore, 1 April 2022 – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG) held its inaugural networking session “YR Connects – An Inclusive Society, A Nation Beyond Second Chances” today, with industry players and employers, to champion an inclusive Singaporean workforce that supports second chances by hiring ex-offenders. The dialogue panel was headed by Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development.

2. Over 30 key industry stakeholders comprising trade associations and employers attended the dialogue, which allowed participants to bridge different perspectives and build consensus on supporting ex-offenders. As part of the dialogue, YRSG also outlined its employment support initiatives over the next few years, such as the TAP (Train And Place) & Grow initiative.¹

3. Speaking at the dialogue, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim said society and employers play a critical role in supporting ex-offenders’ rehabilitation and reintegration, and expressed his gratitude for like-minded partners stepping forward to support the Singapore Prison Service and YRSG in efforts to help inmates and ex-offenders rebuild their lives.

4. Participants commended YRSG’s contribution to reducing recidivism rates in Singapore. A study presented by Professor Sumit Agarwal from the National University of Singapore showed that ex-offenders assisted by YRSG had a lower recidivism rate (by 3.2 percentage points) and higher improved employment rates (by 7.2 percentage points), and that the collective effort by YRSG, its partners and employers have contributed to Singapore’s low and stable recidivism rate.

5. Mr Matthew Wee Yik Keong (黄毅强), Chief Executive Officer, YRSG said: “Inmates undergo intensive rehabilitation and skills upgrading in prisons. Those who are determined to rebuild their lives need a second chance upon their release. Offering an ex-offender a job is society’s most concrete demonstration of giving second chances. Together, we can build a safer, more inclusive and cohesive society.”

¹ Refer to accompanying factsheet for more information on TAP & Grow.



6. Mr Oh Bee Lock, Chief Executive Officer (胡美禄, 行政总裁) of the Singapore Logistics Association said: “We are excited to embark on this meaningful joint initiative with YRSG that helps to nurture a pipeline of potential logistics specialists and allow the logistics community to play our part in the reintegration of ex-offenders into our society. The Logistics Academy has a broad spectrum of logistics-centric training experiences and curriculums developed by industry practitioners. We look forward to lending our expertise and domain know-how to YRSG’s new logistics training centre.”

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About Yellow Ribbon Singapore

YRSG is a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established in 1976 as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and rebranded as YRSG on 1 May 2020.

YRSG adopts a multi-faceted approach to prepare ex-offenders for reintegration back to society and re-join the national workforce. These include initiatives to help them develop skills and long-term careers through partnerships with industry, as well as initiatives to garner community support and acceptance of ex-offenders.

YRSG works with more than 7,000 like-minded partners. Our collective efforts have contributed to the low and stable recidivism rate in Singapore.

YRSG will continue to advocate for ex-offenders, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and bring the private, public and people sectors together for their successful reintegration and contribution back to society.

For more information, refer to YRSG’s website at <http://www.yellowribbon.gov.sg>