

SPECIAL REPORT

PSB Academy on a mission to cultivate skilled workforce

As the world's economic and power bases shift to Asia, educational institutions in the region are broadening their scope to produce highly skilled workers and meet the demand for professionals.

Educating Singapore's workforce for 50 years, PSB Academy is in a solid position to attract students and graduates seeking quality education and wanting to be near the region's burgeoning job market.

"We train people for the workforce," says Evan Law, CEO of PSB Academy. "Three in four of our students find a job within six months of graduating."

PSB Academy has its roots as a government entity formed in 1964 and tasked to upgrade the knowledge and skills of Singapore's workers to meet the country's growing economic needs. PSB Academy was corporatised in 2006 and moved into a lush and modern campus to develop its full range of certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes.

PSB Academy has grown to become one of Singapore's leading higher education providers. Its suite of academic programmes extends from business and communications,



Evan Law, CEO

finance, engineering to life and physical sciences. It is also one of the few institutions that offer niche degrees. These degrees cover various disciplines such as occupational health and safety, biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences. PSB Academy will also introduce new programmes in the coming month such as in the area of clinical research.

"We provide a holistic learning environment both in and out of the classrooms as opposed to just academic work," Law says. "We want to continue being relevant to the industry. The goal of PSB

Academy is to get our graduates to become 'work-ready' in today's demanding and fast-paced work environment."

PSB Academy programmes are accredited locally and internationally through its partner universities in Australia and Britain. Students enjoy classes taught by lecturers from these universities at either one of PSB Academy's two conveniently located campuses in Singapore.

Aside from offering certificate and diploma courses, PSB Academy also collaborates with corporations to develop customised work-study modules for employees. It designed a retail management training programme for one of the region's largest furniture and electronics retailers to develop employees' skills relevant to the retail business. The training programme prepares employees to take on future regional and supervisory positions. Through such collaboration, employees also stand to gain academic achievement and a successful career path.

To mark its 50th anniversary next year, PSB Academy plans to grow its presence in Myanmar, Indonesia, Vietnam and China. It seeks to increase business opportunities with local educational institutions that complement its quality offerings.

Entraco sets marine technological standards through partnership

Marine maintenance and asset management forerunner Entraco Venture Corporation and its group of companies (Entraco) are determined to provide top-quality services to Asia's offshore companies as demand for marine and oil and gas subcontracting works heightens.

As an international and quality marine service provider, Entraco offers hot dip galvanising, tank cleaning and coating services, structural steel fabrication and paints supplies to marine and oil and gas companies in the region. The group's shipyard in Singapore uses in-house technology, enabling it to undertake various onshore and offshore turnkey projects. It also provides warehousing facilities to manage clients' heavy equipment and provides dormitory facilities to support clients' needs.

Branching out into rig building and asset management, Entraco evolved into a global one-stop solutions provider as its clients expanded overseas. Aside from the domestic market in Singapore, Entraco's business offerings extend to Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"We expand together with our clients," says Entraco director Teng Choon Kiat. "We form long-term relationships with clients to enable



Teng Choon Kiat, director

us to work together and support them wherever they are."

Constant interactions with shipowners and customers such as Sembcorp Marine, ABB, BW Offshore, MODEC, SBM Offshore, PetroVietnam and Keppel Offshore & Marine propelled Entraco for growth, developing the group's reputation for providing reliable services.

Dedicated to using technological advancements to deliver safe, cost-effective and environment-friendly products, Entraco collaborates with equipment manufacturers to create groundbreaking intelligent machines. Its longtime partnership with global

crane manufacturer Palfinger generated a series of innovative and automated equipment, including an automated hull hydro-blasting and painting machine that will significantly bring down labour costs and improve productivity. The newly launched equipment reduces a 60-man operation to a 30-man activity.

"Our strategic alliances with companies such as Palfinger and Sherwin-Williams greatly bolster our services," Teng says. "We aim to build even stronger partnerships as we set our eyes on Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar."

Entraco is looking to attract hi-tech partners that complement its development goals while scouting for long-term opportunities in the onshore refining industry.

Expanding its portfolio, Entraco is moving into building and chartering its own oil rigs. In addition to its existing operations, Entraco teams up with major oil players on drill platforms for Asia's shallow waters. It expects to deliver its first oil rig next year.

"We constantly innovate to stay at the forefront and form alliances to provide better, safer and more cost-efficient services that bring value to everyone," Teng says. "We are always open to new ways of working together, even with our competitors."

CKM Consultants is the nation's restoration project specialist

Singapore's Civic District displays the nation's rich architectural legacy for generations to come. It also showcases structural engineering innovation by CKM Consultants, the specialist that backed the government and developers in restoring landmarks such as the National Museum of Singapore, Singapore Cricket Club and The Arts House at the Old Parliament.

Bringing 20 years of academia into practical use, Dr C.K. Murthy founded CKM in 1989. CKM forestalled scores of building demolitions by introducing advanced restoration methods which include reinforced concrete jacketing, steel plate bonding, cathodic protection and underpinning of foundations. With solutions such as CKMX polymer impregnation and fibre-reinforced plastics, CKM had cemented its leading role in Singapore's construction industry.

"We've restored many heritage buildings in Singapore," says Abhishek Murthy, managing director of CKM. "Assessing and upgrading existing buildings, bridges and structures are our strongholds – not many companies have done what we have in this niche market."

Joining his father's company in 1995 after obtaining engineering credentials, Abhishek Murthy pushed the envelope with the upgrading of Amara Singapore Hotel and shopping centre. CKM built 14 storeys atop the building without



Founder and chairman C.K. Murthy (left) and Abhishek Murthy, managing director

disrupting operations, allowing the client to recoup investments within a very short time. Another notable achievement is the preservation of Abdul Gafour Mosque while simultaneously building a basement beneath the 125-year-old monument. Both projects were global firsts and received awards.

CKM has completed its involvement in the landmark conversion of the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings into Singapore's National Art Gallery. Using advanced equipment such as ground-penetrating radar, CKM

ascertained the monuments' structural integrity for long-term adaptive re-use.

Providing its services throughout Asia – and as far as Seychelles to rehabilitate two luxury beachfront hotels – CKM is prepared to render innovative solutions to challenging projects. The company has a wholly-owned subsidiary in India, where it applied underpinning and jacking techniques to restore four blocks of tilted residential blocks.

"Come to us if you have problems no one can solve," Abhishek Murthy says.

Trusted quality education for close to 50 years and growing. It's possible.

PSB Academy has been making success possible for over 10,000 local and international students every year. Reaching our 50th anniversary milestone next year, we remain as strong and committed as ever to offer academic excellence, support graduate employment and nurture a vibrant student life.

Apart from our growing regional presence in Asia, we also have strong partnerships with premier university partners from Australia and the United Kingdom. Together, we offer a complete suite of academic programmes with the largest proprietary diplomas, industry-relevant undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to put our students in a good stead and ahead of competition.

Our Premier University Partners

Australia



United Kingdom



PSB Academy
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For more information, please call (65) 6885 1000 or email: contactus@psb-academy.edu.sg psb-academy.edu.sg



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