

Press Release

Boosting the Bench Strength: Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) Board Members

27 October 2021 – The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) 新加坡创业行动社群 announces today that six industry leaders have been appointed as ACE Board Members.

The six new Board Members bring diverse experiences and deep industry knowledge and expertise to ACE. They will provide strategic guidance and direction to the ACE Secretariat, as ACE continues to engage and build the Singapore startup ecosystem, as the key trade association representing startups.

ACE continues to work closely with relevant stakeholders to uplift the ecosystem and build an innovation-led economy in Singapore. This will bring about good jobs and opportunities for Singaporeans in the long run. ACE, in collaboration with PwC Singapore’s Venture Hub, will also be publishing a Position Paper in January 2022. This Paper seeks to articulate viewpoints of ecosystem players and provide recommendations to the Government on what could be done to address current gaps and help our ecosystem flourish for years to come.

The new Board Members are:

- Mr Lim Kok Kiang, Principal and CEO of [Ngee Ann Polytechnic](#);
- Dr Goh Mong Song, Deputy CEO at the [Institute of Technical Education](#);
- Mr Marcus Tan, Co-founder of [Carousell](#);
- Mr Jeffrey Tiong, Founder and CEO of [PatSnap](#);
- Er Edwin Khew, Chairman of the [Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore \(SEAS\)](#) and President of the [Plastics Recycling Association, Singapore](#); and
- Mr Mohamed Nasser, Senior Vice President, Global Head of Equity Capital Markets at [SGX](#).

ACE’s Patron Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, said, “Singapore is home to a thriving startup ecosystem, and ACE continues to be a strong partner for the Government in fostering the community of startups and entrepreneurs here. Over the past year, under the

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leadership of Mr James Tan as Chairman of ACE, ACE has stepped up its support for startups in managing immediate-term challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic while looking ahead for new growth opportunities. This would not have been possible without the contributions of existing and past ACE Board members. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new ACE Board members, and I look forward to leveraging their wealth of experience from a broad range of sectors to advance ACE’s work. I believe that ACE will continue to build on the good work done – deepening its linkages with key stakeholders, and helping our startups to scale up and internationalise.”

ACE Chairman Mr James Tan noted that the six new Board Members are industry leaders in their respective fields, spanning Government, startup unicorns, sustainability, and capital markets, and they will bring valuable insights and perspectives to ACE. He added, “ACE will continue to support our startups across various stages and build a strong pipeline of unicorns in Singapore. The new Board members bring perspectives that are important to a vibrant startup and innovation ecosystem. Singapore was recently ranked 17th globally, 5th in Asia, and 1st in ASEAN for startups. I look forward to tapping on the experience of the Board members to bring Singapore to the next level.”

Newly appointed ACE Board Member Mr Lim Kok Kiang:

“I am delighted and honoured to join the ACE Board. At Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), we share ACE’s vision in developing a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Singapore. From seed funding, incubator space, to the launch of a dedicated entrepreneurship pathway, our initiatives lay the foundation for our students to explore and realise their entrepreneurship potential. I look forward to supporting ACE’s efforts to foster an entrepreneurial spirit amongst our youths.”

Newly appointed ACE Board Member Dr Goh Mong Song:

“Entrepreneurship energises societies and reflects our aspiration for growth. It thrives in a well-connected and supportive ecosystem. Our entrepreneurship ecosystem in Singapore has evolved and strengthened much over the years. ACE plays an important role in this ecosystem by inspiring,

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nurturing and supporting entrepreneurship. I am honoured by this opportunity to support ACE in fulfilling its mission.”

Newly appointed ACE Board Member Mr Marcus Tan:

“I’m excited to serve as a board member at ACE. As a product of Singapore’s entrepreneurship ecosystem, my co-founders Lucas, Siu Rui and I have benefitted a lot from the community, and I am looking forward to nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs and take Singapore’s startup scene to the next level.”

Newly appointed ACE Board Member Mr Jeffrey Tiong:

“I am honoured to join the board of The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) and very much look forward to serving the ACE community. The organisation’s passion for uplifting the Singapore startup ecosystem and building an innovation-led economy strongly aligns with my own vision for PatSnap.”

Newly appointed ACE Board Member Er Edwin Khew:

“It is indeed an honour to be invited to join the ACE Board and to be able to contribute by bringing the sustainability sector into the ACE support and growth ecosystem. Both the sustainable energy and plastic recycling sectors represent tremendous growth opportunities for innovators and startups as both the associations and their Council/Boards that I am honoured to lead, are determined to develop Singapore into a Center of Excellence for Asia and Asean. With the R&D partnerships developed with many research centers and IHLs locally and globally, both SEAS and PRAS with the support of ACE can look forward to producing many startups and technopreneurs who will create successful high-tech companies and many new high-end jobs in systems design, recycling, manufacturing, operations and maintenance in Singapore as a hub for markets and customers throughout Asia and Asean. Most or all of these countries are already being impacted by climate change and will need urgent technologies and solutions to adapt and build resilience to tackle climate change across a wide range of areas.”

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Newly appointed ACE Board Member Mr Mohamed Nasser:

“As one of the leading hubs for startups globally and in Asia, Singapore offers a vibrant ecosystem for fast-growing companies and is home to some of the most promising unicorns in the region. I am honoured to be a part of the ACE, helping to nurture the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and guiding companies at every step of their growth journey.”

The initial appointment will be for a term of up to 2.5 years. As of 1 October 2021, there are [nine ACE Board Members](#).

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For more information, please visit <http://ace.org.sg>

Annex A: Full List of ACE Board Members

	Name	Position	Title	Member Since
1	Mr James Tan	Chairman	Managing Partner, Quest Ventures	2016
2	Mr Saurav Bhattacharyya	Treasurer	CEO and Co-founder, Quantum Inventions	2020
3	Ms Lim Qing Ru	Member	Partner, True Global Ventures	2020
4	Mr Lim Kok Kiang	Member	Principal & CEO, Ngee Ann Polytechnic	2021
5	Dr Goh Mong Song	Member	Deputy CEO (Lifelong Learning & Digital Services), Institute of Technical Education	2021
6	Mr Marcus Tan	Member	Co-founder, Carousell	2021
7	Mr Jeffrey Tiong	Member	Founder and CEO, PatSnap	2021
8	Er Edwin Khew	Member	Chairman, Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS); Chairman, Director and Co-founder, AirCarbon Pte Ltd; President, Plastics Recycling Association, Singapore	2021
9	Mr Mohamed Nasser	Member	Senior Vice President, Global Head of Equity Capital Markets, SGX; Board Member, Enterprise Singapore	2021

Annex B: CVs of New ACE Board Members



Mr Lim Kok Kiang is the Principal & CEO of Ngee Ann Polytechnic. He took over the role in May 2021.

Before joining Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Kok Kiang was the Executive Vice President and Member of the Executive Committee of the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). He was responsible for EDB's International Operations as well as EDB's strategies in Advanced Manufacturing. Prior to this, Kok Kiang held various posts in EDB, including Assistant Managing Director (Engineering Cluster Group), Executive Director, Transport Engineering and Asia Pacific. He spent six years in Japan as both Centre Director and Regional Director, Japan Operations during his time in EDB. He joined EDB in 1996.



Dr Goh Mong Song is the Deputy CEO (Lifelong Learning & Digital Services) at the Institute of Technical Education. He is responsible for leading workplace and workforce learning initiatives, digitalisation, student services, student entrepreneurship and alumni programmes.

Dr Goh is passionate about developing a new generation of skilled workforce through working closely with the industry on the ITE's Work-Study Diploma initiative. Prior to joining ITE, he worked in the private sector where his experience centred primarily on managing and growing international logistics business in Asian and European markets.



Marcus is a Co-founder at Carousell. Since the launch of Carousell in August 2012, Marcus has been deeply involved in product design, brand, and community, and build the app's first interface. Today, he focuses on developing Carousell's Culture and People, helping to direct the growth and development of employees, and the company culture.

Prior to Carousell, Marcus spent a year at Oracle as a consultant and held various marketing roles at DDB, Yahoo, and Coca Cola. In 2021, Carousell joined the list of local unicorns that are unlisted startups valued in excess of US\$1 billion.



Jeffrey Tiong is the founder and CEO of PatSnap, a globally-recognised competitive intelligence innovation platform. Under his leadership, the company has grown from a small four-person operation to international prominence in the highly competitive field of patent analytics. Today, PatSnap enables more than 10,000 customers in 50 countries to access market, technology, and competitive intelligence as well as patent insights to take products from ideation to commercialisation.

Jeffrey realised the need for AI-powered IP strategy and research after an internship with a medical startup device in the U.S. and went on to found PatSnap in 2007 after graduating from the National University of Singapore. Jeffrey's key to successful entrepreneurship is persistence and an insatiable desire to learn and grow.

Jeffrey has received international recognition for his vision and leadership. He was awarded the SCS IT Leaders Award in 2019, Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Singapore) in 2018, and was featured on the Peak Power List in 2017.



Er. Edwin T.F. Khew is a former Nominated Member of Parliament (NMP) and currently the Chairman of the Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS), and Chairman, Director & Co-founder of AirCarbon Pte Ltd. He is also President of the Plastics Recycling Association, Singapore (PRAS), the Immediate Past Chairman of the Singapore Standards Council, Emeritus President of The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), a Supervisory Board Member of Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) and former Board Member of the Professional Engineers' Board (PEB) Singapore.

Er Khew has an Executive MBA from the National University of Singapore, a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Queensland, Australia, is a Fellow and Chartered Engineer of the Institute of Engineers, Singapore, a Fellow and Chartered Engineer of the Institute of Chemical Engineers (UK), a professional engineer of the Professional Engineers Board, Singapore, and a Fellow of the Singapore Academy of Engineers.



Mr Mohamed Nasser is Senior Vice President, Global Head of Equity Capital Markets at SGX. He is responsible for marketing and developing SGX's Mainboard and Catalist platforms. His responsibilities include the development of initiatives to provide greater fund-raising services for companies, driving policy and platform initiatives related to the capital markets.

Prior to assuming his present responsibilities, Mr Nasser headed various legal and regulatory roles in SGX. His duties encompassed regular liaison with regulators and representing SGX's interests in the development and implementation of listing and other regulatory initiatives. Prior to joining SGX in 2005, Mr Nasser was a State Counsel with the Attorney General's Chambers.

Mr Nasser is also a Board Member of Enterprise Singapore and an Advisory Committee Member of the Personal Data Protection Commission ("PDPC"). He also serves on the Boards of Capbridge and 1X, a private market platform co-founded by SGX.

About ACE

Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) is the national voice for the Singapore startup ecosystem, and a key trade association representing the interests of startups in Singapore. ACE has more than 2,000 members, representing over 1,300 startups.

ACE constantly seeks to build a vibrant and sustainable startup ecosystem in Singapore, and focuses on five key pillars: Startups, Corporations, Institutes of Higher Learning, Risk Capital, and Public Sector. As the driving force behind

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Singapore as an Innovation Island, ACE is creating a virtual and physical space where ideas, knowledge, and capabilities are transformed into value efficiently.

ACE was established in 2003 by the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry, and re-launched as a private sector-led, non-profit organisation in 2014. ACE's Patron is Dr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.

Working closely with the Government and startups, ACE aims to promote entrepreneurship, catalyse new growth opportunities, scale startups and build champion enterprises.

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