



Mr Choong Kit Leon
SAPE President

MESSAGE FROM THE SAPE PRESIDENT

How time flies!

It's been 7 years since the establishment of the Singapore Association for Private Education (SAPE). Formed as a vehicle for Private Education Institutions (PEIs) to leverage on one another's strengths and capabilities, the Association has helped a diverse range of schools come together to tackle the challenges of a dynamic operating environment head on.

It would be wishful thinking to say that the SAPE has had a smooth journey since its inception, but in truth, we had to overcome many trials to get to where we are today. Some may recall that our Association was conceived whilst in the midst of an economic crisis and as a professional organisation, we were restricted in the kinds of funding or support we could receive from government agencies. As such, we had to find the right financial model as well as a pragmatic means to support a full-time secretariat which could serve as the administrative backbone to begin providing value for our members.

While the Association was new, we were fortunate that its founding members brought to the table years of industrial experience, and we were able to quickly find our focus. With immense generosity of spirit, each of the pioneering schools came together and volunteered what they could, pooling our shared resources to make it work.

Today, we are financially robust, our membership base is much enlarged, and the activities we organise are comprehensive and wide-ranging, with strong support from complementary associations such as the Singapore International Chamber of Commerce, the Singapore Business Federation and the Strategic Association of Professional Training Consulting Organisations to name just a few.

Even the former boundaries between higher education and professional training is fast vanishing, as evidenced by the regulators for both sectors coming to reside in SkillsFuture Singapore. Correspondingly, the diverse membership of the SAPE have come to speak with one voice. Today, we bring together PEIs offering professional development as well as tertiary programmes in partnership with well-ranked overseas universities. Our membership also includes international schools offering globally recognised curricula.

The SAPE offers a strong representative platform at the industry level, to look after the best interests of private education providers. The Association actively helps to promote the growth and development of all its members. The SAPE's key strengths are its strategies, initiatives and projects to level up the standards of teaching, learning and service through shared knowledge and best practices.

At the national level, the Association functions as the industry representative to engage in planning and review to fulfil the national agenda on manpower needs and productivity drives. Accordingly, our members know that the Association serves as a reliable conduit for feedback and concerns, which will be faithfully channelled to the appropriate government bodies.

The private education sector serves many stakeholders – students, employers, industry associations and government bodies – all of whom have a vested interest in the education and training of our citizens. On behalf of the Management Committee, the SAPE welcomes participation from all educationists to strengthen our collaborative community of learning in both domestic and international arenas.

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