

## MORE ABOUT OUR MND EDGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS

#### **Mr Paul Chong Ren-Huang, (张仁惶)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Science (major in Plant Sciences or Horticultural Science)

Agency: Gardens by the Bay

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To say that Paul likes plants would be an understatement. Paul is completely obsessed about plants. He spends every waking moment thinking about them. Sometimes he even dreams of them in his sleep.

Paul's fascination with plants started at a young age. It all began when his grandmother gifted him a *Haworthia coarctata* for his 7th birthday. Till this day, it is still growing strong. Nowadays, he has moved beyond just succulents - Orchids, Pitcher Plants and Tillandsia fill his burgeoning garden, and he still hungers for more. One of his latest pet projects focuses on covering veritable frangipani trees (both his friends' and his own) with a host of exotic and interesting plants.

Paul believes he can contribute his experience with growing various plants to Gardens by the Bay, while continuing to challenge himself and push the boundaries of plant cultivation in the foremost horticultural institution. At the same time, he hopes to propagate and instil the appreciation for plants among members of the public, by granting them more opportunities to view plants that are not commonly grown in Singapore.

Paul aspires to play a part in the continuing development of Gardens by the Bay as a sustainable garden for the people. Within his personal capacity, he has also been experimenting with the cultivation of alternative plants as food sources. This stems from his personal belief in vegetarianism and the consumption of efficient sources of food. Lastly, he seeks to breed and improve several Orchid species which he is highly fascinated by, and perhaps produce several hybrids to name after the many influential and important people in his life.



**Mr Tengku Sharil Bin Tengku Abdul Kadir (东姑希乐)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Architecture

Agency: HDB

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Sharil believes that HDB flats are without a doubt very recognisable forms to most, if not all Singaporeans, that inevitably make them iconic forms amongst the Singapore landscape. They act both as private living spaces, as well as communal hubs in which Singaporeans from all backgrounds interact and share. Thus, Sharil applied for the HDB scholarship because it gives him the opportunity to simultaneously gain professional experience as an architect whilst playing a part in the building of communities in Singapore through public housing and town development. In particular, he is drawn towards the challenge of creating inclusive spaces for Singapore's increasingly diverse population on the little space on our red dot.

Sharil aspires to see his designs being implemented within the built environment. More importantly, he would love to see the users of that space, recreated through his design, take ownership of their homes and surrounding communities. Be it within a single flat or a town, this would mean that the users of that place regularly take part in activities present within their estate using the features built within the environment, be it an evening Zumba session at the adjacent park or shopping at the neighbourhood bazaar. To Sharil, such reactions to the built environment give these spaces a sense of identity, which is what he hopes to see being created for his architectural designs.

To Sharil, the MND family consists of specialists that ultimately work together to create and sustain both a high quality and liveable environment in Singapore. He hopes to contribute to this larger scheme as a specialist within HDB, where he could play an integral role in the development and redevelopment of public housing and estates of Singapore. Sharil believes that homes and estates are ultimately the heart of our nation's built environment, which makes them a strong connection for many Singaporeans. He believes that through achieving a well-designed HDB town, in his role as an architect, many Singaporeans will take greater pride in their stake within the country: their homes.



**Tan Yung-En Joash (陈永恩)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Agriculture Management

Agency: AVA

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Joash has always taken a liking for anything related to nature and the outdoors. He can still recall a picture of himself at the age of 5, holding a fishing net in his hand and scooping around in the streams at Venus Drive. This interest and curiosity for nature, eventually grew to become a passion. His personal interests include gardening, rearing fishes, pole vaulting and malacology (also known as conchology). On weekends, he would trade a visit to the cafe for a hike in the central forests of Singapore, running or simply walking along the seashore waiting for a special shell to roll up along the shoreline.

Joash has a seashell collection, which he has been building for almost 11 years now. He also enjoys experimenting with new planting techniques, and has tried growing a variety of plants at home.

The scholarship provides Joash with an opportunity to further develop his interests, especially so when the course he will be embarking on is considerably unique. At the end of this scholarship, Joash aspires to enable Singapore be a self-sufficient country in terms of food production. Additionally, it is his dream that one day, Singapore will be a leading nation in terms of high-tech, sustainable farming. With food production slowly being outpaced by the speed of population growth, Joash hopes to be able to contribute to community by assuring a safe and steady supply of food not only for our country, but for those who live in impoverished places elsewhere. Through research, development and education, his vision is for farming to be a solution to poverty and hunger worldwide.



**Chen Yizhan Kelvin (陈亿展)**

Age: 21

Field of study: Food Science, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Agency: AVA

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Kelvin enjoys going around Singapore to look for new flavours. Like most Singaporeans, he is a foodie, constantly looking out for new flavours to indulge his taste buds. He feels really fortunate that in Singapore, we have the luxury of not having to worry about what eat, and can enjoy a great diversity of flavours from all over the world. Despite having most food products imported from overseas, Singapore has a top notch regulation system in place to ensure that all food products are safe for consumption.

In secondary school, Kelvin was part of a science program. Once, he got to make cheese in a science laboratory with milk and lemon juice. It was not exactly the best tasting cheese, but that was his first introduction to food science. Kelvin's interest in both food and biology eventually made him decide to pursue a degree in Biological science and food science.

Food is a necessity for all and if stored properly, food can benefit everyone's health. It is not uncommon for establishments that disregard the well-being of consumers to introduce adulterated food products into the global market. As Singapore imports about 90% of our food from overseas, these products can potentially enter our local markets, which will affect the local population. Therefore, Kelvin feels that it is important for Singapore to have a stringent regulatory body in place to shield our country from these threats. He finds the career in AVA really meaningful and fulfilling as AVA is safeguarding the health of everyone in Singapore.

Kelvin hopes to safeguard the health of our people by improving food security standards through reviewing policies. By maintaining and improving food security and stability standards, he hopes to safeguard the health of everyone and ensure that safe food remains accessible to all.



## **Mr Muhamad Haziq Bin Jamaludin**

Age: 18

Field of study: Engineering with Minor in Management, National University of Singapore

Agency: BCA

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Haziq is constantly intrigued by the beauty and wonders of buildings, especially in the ways they shape a person's way of life. While building designers or architects are usually the ones who envision such impactful building concepts and features, Haziq aspires to be the engineer who turns these ideas into reality.

Haziq came from a humble background - living together with his parents and five siblings. Being the eldest son in the family, he lets his siblings have the bedroom while he sleeps in the living room at night. Haziq did his revision at school, public libraries and cafes in the airport as he felt that these places provided a more conducive environment for studying. Due to the limited space at home, his family often find themselves misplacing their belongings. These challenges in life played a role in Haziq's growing interest in buildings and their impact on people's lifestyle, and motivated him to embark on a career path that would make a difference in people's lives.

Haziq learned about the BCA scholarship through his school's scholarship fair. A talk at BCA later spurred him on to pursue a career with BCA as he learned about the opportunities that the scholarship could provide. It made him reflect on the kind of career that he wants – one that is exciting and fulfilling, while enabling him to give back to society. He was involved in Mendaki Club, and wants to continue the spirit of giving when he enters the workforce. Ultimately, Haziq hopes to inspire others by becoming a successful engineer who is family-oriented and also contributes actively to the community.

Haziq is determined to work hard to contribute to BCA, MND and Singapore. He hopes to get the opportunity to lead within the organisation and make changes for the better, so that Singapore will continue to grow and develop as a sustainable global city.



**Ms Teh Su Chen (郑素真)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Social Sciences, Rice University

Agency: MND

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Su Chen loves museums. Strolling leisurely down rows of artworks draws her mind to certain ideas that people are trying to highlight to the public. Standing among valuable conserved artefacts and splitting replicas of the landscape in the past allows her to immerse herself in life back then. Some technological museums paint a thought-provoking image of how the world will look like in the future, prompting her to ponder about the Singapore she expects to see in the future.

Su Chen once wanted to have a go at creating her own little mini-city (Singapore), and once dug out several cardboard boxes and magazines and transformed the inanimate pieces of paper into a little wonderland of her imagination. There were plants (or rather, green magazine paper) growing on the sides of the skyscrapers, and a giant platform above the wide roads to utilise the space in the sky for more amenities.

She has always been fascinated by innovative solutions to address the constraints urban cities face, and believes that the best way to harness this passion is to embark on a career with MND, where she will have a hand in creating a liveable and sustainable city that Singaporeans will be proud of. Having learned of interesting ideas such as streets that are free of traffic lights, stop signs and the like, or a water-pulley system that uses rainwater to irrigate crops in urban farms, Su Chen believes that an amalgamation of knowledge from different fields is constructive in coming up with the most creative and effective of solutions to the challenges Singapore faces.

Su Chen hopes her liberal arts education in Rice University will expose her to a wide range of academic disciplines. She is determined to bring back valuable interdisciplinary knowledge to contribute to MND. In particular, she is keen to study ways to align people's lifestyles with new and existing policies and infrastructure to increase the effectiveness of green initiatives.



**Ms Leanne Chan Lin-En (曾琳恩)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Mathematics and Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

Agency: MND

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Leanne's interest in photography has helped her to appreciate the beauty of our infrastructure and landscape and our unique mix of cultures. Throughout her Junior College journey, she took part in activities like the Singapore Model Cabinet and volunteered at grassroots organisations, which exposed her to the work of MND. These experiences deepened her appreciation for the work of the ministry.

Leanne feels that we often take for granted our home ownership, the stability of our buildings and food safety, without which, we would not be the productive and efficient nation we are today. In addition, there are constantly new developments in technology which MND would have to integrate into Singapore's infrastructure. She thinks it would be a very exciting time to be working in MND, as we explore all these new technologies which can make our nation more sustainable as well as efficient.

She intends to use the analytical skills that she would have honed through her higher education to formulate policies which would be able to meet the needs of the present while also conserving our heritage, and having enough for our future generations.



**Mr Choo Yi Feng (朱奕峰)**

Age: 19

Field of study: Environmental Biology or Marine Biology

Agency: NParks

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Yi Feng's interest in nature and marine life began at a very young age, when he would read up on books about marine animals, forests, insects and other wildlife.

In 2008, when he was just 11 years old, he volunteered with NParks as a tour guide at the Chek Jawa Wetlands on Pulau Ubin. Over the years, he has had many unique and memorable experiences, such as taking President Tony Tan on a tour around Chek Jawa during his first visit in 2011.

Yi Feng counts himself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to volunteer with NParks from a young age, and is grateful to his parents for their support. He has fond memories of how his father accompanied him on trips to Chek Jawa when he was still not old enough to travel on his own.

He feels that becoming an NParks scholar is a natural progression from having been a long-time volunteer. Receiving the scholarship will enable him to combine two of his greatest interests: his love for nature, and his curiosity and passion for learning. As such, he is very much looking forward to beginning his university education. His dream job is one where he is able to work with nature, and raise public awareness of Singapore's beautiful parks and gardens. He hopes that upon completion of his studies, he will be able to contribute to the success of NParks, and do both himself and the organisation proud.

To Yi Feng, Singapore is truly one-of-a-kind with regard to the degree of integration of urban and natural spaces, an agenda he hopes he will be able to continue to push. He hopes that more awareness can be raised about the biodiversity that can be found in Singapore's beautiful tropical waters, especially with regard to the species discoveries that have been made over the years. Yi Feng believes that Singapore's biodiversity is as much a part of its heritage and country as its people are, and wants to enhance and conserve them as a national asset that all Singaporeans can be proud of.





**Mr Colin Gay Wei En (倪炜恩)**

Age: 20

Field of study: Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University

Agency: URA

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Colin's love for Computer Science first started when he joined his school's Infocomm Club in Secondary One. Since then, he cultivated his interest by participating in numerous competitions and tech events, where he explored various activities including building webpages and designing games.

Colin is deeply intrigued by the enabling power of technology. As a Youth Infocomm Ambassador with IDA, Colin relished the opportunity of harnessing technology to engage fellow students and the public. By organising exhibition tours and student conferences, he also learnt how technology can be used to help galvanise people to work towards a common goal, help them realise their potential, bring ideas to life, as well as enable the community to draw closer to one another.

Colin believes that more can be done in Singapore to bring technology to the public and get them involved in improving their quality of life. While condensing and representing data in a simple yet meaningful way is important for URA planners to make informed decisions, he feels that this is also an important step in bridging the gap between planners and citizens. He hopes to leverage on his knowledge and skills to help empower the community to participate in making Singapore a better place to live, work and play.



## **POST-GRADUATE SCHOLAR**

**Ms Joycelyn Yik Meirong (易美容)**

Age: 32

Field of study: Master of Arts in Public Policy, Claremont Graduate University

Agency: URA

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Joycelyn is currently an Executive Planner in URA. She was part of the inter-agency Relocation Sub-Committee which managed the relocation of the Malaysian rail station from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands. She also played a key role in the development of the rapid transit system link from Woodlands to Johor Bahru, another significant bilateral development. More recently, Joycelyn was involved in the planning and realisation of the National Cycling Plan, a critical milestone in encouraging people to adopt cycling as a mode of commuting in Singapore.