



PRESS RELEASE

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SENIORS LEARN CODE TO TEACH OTHER SENIORS

Singapore, 14 February 2018 – Learning to code is fun and simple, and you don't need qualifications in IT to do it. That's what a group of tech-savvy seniors believe and wish to share with their peers.

The group of seniors, who are volunteers from RSVP Singapore, a senior volunteer organisation, have learned to code at ITE College West, where they were able to see their programme design run on "Micro:bit" – a small pocket-sized, code-able computer. This is part of the Digital Making workshop conducted by William Tan, Head/Technology Projects in the School of Electronics & Info-Comm Technology, an initiative with the aim of helping seniors learn digitalisation skills.

Approximately 20 seniors have been trained, with each senior going through three four-hour sessions. These seniors are now equipped with sufficient knowledge to conduct classes to teach fellow seniors how to code. The classes are expected to be launched sometime in the second half of 2018 and 500 seniors are expected to benefit from the classes.

The digital maker sessions were made possible with the support of Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), which had appointed RSVP as a Silver Infocomm Junction since 2007. IMDA has been working with RSVP Singapore in ensuring its training curriculum has the latest technology and providing micro:bits for all the Digital Maker workshops. With the senior volunteers trained and kept abreast of the changes, they can now guide other seniors confidently.

"The collaboration with RSVP is part of IMDA's continual effort to give seniors the confidence to embrace technology and be digitally ready. This is especially important for Singapore as a digital

economy and cohesive digital society.” said Ms Koh Li-Na, Senior Director (Digital Readiness Cluster), IMDA.

RSVP Singapore’s current training curriculum consists of topics such as how to use a computer and emails. It is now branching out to more advanced topics such as learning to code and developing an app, hence its collaboration with ITE West.

“With all the technological advancements, it will not be enough to simply teach seniors how to use the computer. We need to keep up with the times – we need to teach seniors new things,” said RSVP Singapore’s President Mr Koh Juay Meng.

Seniors who wish to find out more may contact RSVP Singapore at 62590802 or general@rsvp.org.sg.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Nur Rashidah Khalid
Manager, Corporate Communications
Mobile: 6485 6124
Email: rashidah@rsvp.org.sg

About RSVP Singapore

RSVP Singapore – The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is a non-profit organisation and an Institution of Public Character. Since its inception in 1998, RSVP Singapore has been actively engaging seniors to serve the community with their talent and experience through purpose-driven volunteerism.

Through impactful community service programmes, we serve more than 200,000 beneficiaries each year. These include the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low income families and socially isolated seniors. RSVP's programmes are designed to support and empower senior volunteers to embody its core values of lifelong learning, active ageing, integrity, sharing experience and service.