



**PRESS RELEASE
12 SEPTEMBER 2020
EMBARGOED UNTIL SIGNING OF MOU AT 10.30AM**

RSVP SINGAPORE PARTNERS SMART NATION & DIGITAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE TO ENHANCE DIGITAL CAPABILITIES OF SENIORS AND SMART NATION AMBASSADORS

Singapore, 12 September 2020

RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers and the Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today. The MoU seals the partnership to engage seniors in the co-creation of Smart Nation initiatives and digital government services. The two-year partnership will help seniors harness and enhance their digital capabilities and expertise, and encourage more seniors to join the ranks of Smart Nation Ambassadors (SNAs). The aim is to raise 500 SNAs annually through RSVP to cultivate a pool of seniors who can become digital coaches and advocates.

2 Together, RSVP Singapore and SNDGO will also co-develop an online learning portal for SNAs to pick up soft skills, and information on Smart Nation initiatives. As this online learning portal is open to the public, one can find courses such as familiarisation with digital government services, how to work effectively with youths, and even how to operate drones for leisure play.

3 Dr Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State for Health and Communications & Information, witnessed the signing of the MoU at the sixth annual National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) Opening Ceremony on 12 September 2020, where he was the Guest-of-Honour. The Opening Ceremony is the largest virtual volunteer outreach at a single location for this year.

4 Dr Janil Puthucheary said, "Through this partnership with RSVP Singapore, we hope more seniors will embrace technology and digital government services. Seniors can lead the digital transformation wave, and be active advocates in our Smart Nation journey."

5 "We believe that the signing of this MoU is a step closer in working towards our belief that no seniors get left behind on our way towards becoming a Smart

Nation. RSVP has deep experience curating volunteer training programmes and conducts digital and tech-focused courses at our dedicated training centre,” said Mr Koh Juay Meng, Chairman of RSVP Singapore.

6 National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) is organised by RSVP Singapore and is its annual signature event which promotes volunteerism among seniors and their families. The first NSVM was launched in 2015 by then-Singapore President Dr Tony Tan.

7 NSVM 2020 will be an entirely virtual format, themed “Embracing Senior Volunteerism In this Digital Era”. A highlight of this event is a panel discussion on “Volunteering in this Digital Era”, which will explore the pros and cons of virtual volunteering, how organisations or individuals can enhance the volunteering experience, and how we can enable more seniors to participate even as volunteering too goes virtual.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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About RSVP Singapore

RSVP Singapore The Organisation of Senior Volunteers is an Institution of Public Character and the National Centre of Excellence for Senior Volunteerism under the patronage of Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore. The organisation started in 1998 and was launched by then-Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong. RSVP Singapore is a registered society under the Societies Act and a member of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).

Since its inception, RSVP Singapore has been actively engaging seniors in purpose-driven volunteerism. With over 2,500 volunteers, RSVP Singapore serves more than 200,000 beneficiaries each year including the mentally disadvantaged, at-risk children from low income families, and socially isolated seniors through its community service programmes.

About Smart Nation and Digital Government Office

The Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO), under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), plans and prioritises key Smart Nation projects, drives the digital transformation of government, builds long-term capabilities for the public sector, and promotes adoption and participation from the public and industry, to take a collective approach in building a Smart Nation.

For more information, please visit www.smartnation.gov.sg.

About NSVM

In line with its mission to provide opportunities for seniors to serve the community, RSVP led the first major volunteering movement targeted at seniors in 2012, encouraging them to embark on their volunteering journey. Working with various VWO partners, volunteering opportunities were created to allow new and would-be volunteers to have a taste of volunteering.

In 2015, SVW was rebranded as National Senior Volunteer Month (NSVM) to highlight its significance at a national level of increasing the number of senior volunteers in Singapore. NSVM is now an annual signature event of RSVP.

NSVM 2020

As the National Centre of Excellence for Senior Volunteerism, our aim is to exponentially increase the number of senior volunteers serving the different beneficiary segments in our society.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges to everyone in the sector. Staying at home may be the new norm, but we want to continue to inculcate the spirit of giving back and encourage Singaporeans to volunteer regularly. The theme for NSVM this year is 'Retire with A Purpose' with its focus being 'Embracing Senior Volunteering in this Digital Era'.

NSVM 2020 aims to engage 1000 volunteers through at least 35 unique volunteering opportunities with partner Social Service Organisations to benefit the less privileged over four months from July to October.

Programme for NSVM 2020

NSVM 2020 will be conducted fully virtual through live streaming via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Time	Activity
9.45am	Zoom pre-login starts
10:00am	Welcome and Introduction
10.05am	Welcome address Mr Koh Juay Meng, PBM RSVP Chairman
10:15am	Address by Guest-of-Honour Dr Janil Puthucheary Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Communications and Information
10:25am	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between RSVP Singapore and SNDGO
10:30am	Video collage of virtual engagement during Circuit Breaker
10:35am	HAPPY exercise by RSVP volunteers
10:45am	Ukulele performance by RSVP Ukulele Activity Circle
10:55am	Video screening of drumming performance by Down Syndrome Association (Singapore)
11.00am	Panel on “Volunteering in this Digital Era”
12:00pm	End of Opening Ceremony
12:00pm – 5:00pm	Breakout sessions in the afternoon

Panel discussion

The panel discussion will be conducted fully virtual through live streaming via Zoom and Facebook Live. Each panelist will bring their unique insights and rich experiences from the social, corporate and public sector.

Panel discussion on:

Volunteering In This Digital Era

Saturday, 12 September 2020
Moderated by **Mr Richard Hartung**

This panel discussion aims to uncover the pros and cons of virtual volunteering and how to enable more seniors to volunteer amid this digitalisation of volunteering. In this climate of uncertainty, we are interested to find out more about how organisations or individuals could enhance the volunteering experience.



Dr Ang Hak Seng, BBM
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth



Dr Foo Fung Fong
Executive Director, Filos Community Services



Mr Koh Juay Meng, PBM
Chairman, RSVP Singapore



Mr Martin Chew
Deputy Director (Adoption and Engagement),
Smart Nation Digital Government Office



Ms Winnie Tan
Regional Head of Sustainability for ASEAN &
South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank



nsvm2020.rsvp.org.sg

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Volunteer Profile

Steric Tan, 71, is an active senior who volunteers regularly to assist the seniors' community in navigating the use of smart phones and mobile applications, as well as other interest activities such as craft making and sudoku.



When Singapore's 2G network ceased in 2017, Steric saw an urgent need to help seniors familiarise with the use of smart phones. He started organising lessons at various CCs and RCs to help the elderly be more confident and familiar with the use of 3G mobile handsets. Steric also believes that many of the mobile applications available today, can help bring convenience to seniors in their daily activities. Hence, he has evolved his lessons from teaching basic functionalities of a smart phone, to step-by-step guides on utilising useful mobile apps.

When the circuit breaker was announced earlier this year, Steric was worried that many seniors would be bored at home. He curated lessons on Whatsapp video conferencing and Zoom to teach seniors how to use these platforms to stay in touch with family and friends. Similarly, when the use of SafeEntry was announced to support contact tracing efforts, Steric was concerned that many seniors would not know how to check in when they visit malls and supermarkets. With the help of SNDGO, he curated teaching materials and organised a Zoom session to teach seniors how to use SafeEntry.

Point of Contact

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