



Fact Sheet on MOT Family Beacon Scholarship 2017



The Beacon Scholarship is an umbrella brand conceptualised since 2010 to collectively profile the scholarships offered by the Ministry of Transport (MOT) and its Statutory Boards, namely the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), the Land Transport Authority (LTA), the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and the Public Transport Council (PTC). 2017 marks the eighth year of the Beacon Scholarship.

Number of Recipients for 2017 Ceremony

Agency¹	Number
Ministry of Transport (MOT)	1 (postgraduate)
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS)	7 (undergraduate) 2 (postgraduate)
Land Transport Authority (LTA)	12 (undergraduate) 5 (postgraduate)
Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)	7 (undergraduate) 2 (postgraduate)
Total	26 (undergraduate) 10 (postgraduate) <u>36</u>

[**Annex A: Write-ups of Selected Undergraduate Scholars**](#)

[**Annex B: Write-ups of Selected Postgraduate Scholars**](#)

¹ There is no recipient of scholarship offered by the PTC in 2017.

Ip Georges Christophe
CAAS Undergraduate Scholar



Mr Ip Georges Christophe, a CAAS scholar from the 2017 cohort, has decided to pursue a degree in Economics at University of California, Los Angeles. Formerly from Raffles Institution (RI), Georges graduated in 2015 after completing his 'A' Levels.

His role as the vice-chairperson of the Photographic Society in RI has taught Georges to serve and improve the communities around him. Together with the Chairperson and a social services agency, Georges arranged for photoshoots for low-income families, and created family portraits for them. Georges felt that the family portrait would serve as an important cultural artifact for these families to look back upon fondly. With this passion to serve the community at large, Georges is certain that a career in the public sector will be aligned to his aspirations and values.

Georges has always been proud of the fact that Singapore is highly regarded as one of the most established and efficient air hubs around the world. He always felt a calling to work in the public sector, and alongside his personal traits and deep interest in the aviation industry, he feels that CAAS can offer him a great environment to grow in. Embarking on a CAAS scholarship and career would allow him to play a pivotal role in helping to grow the aviation hub and continue striving towards excellence.

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Jonathan Peh
LTA Undergraduate Scholar



Mr Jonathan Peh, an LTA scholar from the 2017 cohort, will be pursuing Civil Engineering at Imperial College London.

Jonathan is a determined individual whose life could have taken a very different turn. In his secondary school days, Jonathan had very poor results and was heavily addicted to computer

games. Following the completion of his 'O' levels, he was almost not able to make it to polytechnic for his further studies. After two successive appeals to Singapore Polytechnic to study Civil Engineering, one of his favourite subjects, the polytechnic was finally convinced that Jonathan had the passion to pursue Civil Engineering and admitted him into the program. Jonathan did not let this chance go to waste and eventually emerged as the valedictorian for his cohort and even made it to one of the most prestigious engineering institutions in the world, Imperial College London, to further his studies in Civil Engineering. All this while, he also has not forgotten the kindness which was shown to him by Singapore Polytechnic and often would provide peer tutoring to students as well as returning to his secondary school to tutor less privileged students.

Lim Chu Rui
MPA Undergraduate Scholar



Mr Lim Chu Rui, an MPA mid-term scholar, is currently a year-3 student in Civil Engineering at the Nanyang Technological University.

As a scholar at MPA, Chu Rui had the opportunity to work in one of MPA's mega-engineering projects – Tuas Terminal Port, where he witnessed first-hand concepts that he learnt in school being applied on the ground, e.g. soil improvement works and post-soil improvement investigations. In addition, he had also visited marine and caisson casting sites which had deepened his understanding of project cycles.

Beyond the hustle and bustle of the site and meetings with the contractors and consultants, Chu Rui had also picked up an extremely useful port planning software - *Berth Capacity Simulation Tool*, which allows users to configure different parameters to determine the terminal capacity and its ability to meet the demand of vessels entering and leaving the port. As innovation is at the forefront of what we do, Chu Rui found it very interesting to see such programming tool being used to help in decision-making processes here.

During his free time, Chu Rui enjoys watching movies and reading up on the world's current affairs. His all-time favourite movie is the Marvel Avengers. Sometimes he imagines himself being the Ironman, not only because the Ironman is also an engineer, but he is flexible, innovative and always thinking ahead.

Sidney Koh Soon Beng
MOT Postgraduate Scholar



Seeking an opportunity to help shape policies to enhance Singapore's standing as an international transport hub, Sidney joined MOT in 2006. In the nine years that he has cumulatively spent in MOT, Sidney has worked on maritime, land transport and most recently aviation issues.

Sidney started out in MOT's Sea Transport Division, working closely with MPA, other government agencies and companies from across the maritime industry to formulate and implement policies to enhance Singapore's competitiveness as a global hub port and international maritime centre, as well as those concerning issues such as maritime security and environmental protection.

Sidney then completed a 2-year posting to the Ministry of Health (MOH). At MOH, he worked with the various public healthcare clusters and institutions to plan and develop new healthcare facilities and expand existing ones, and on cross-divisional strategic planning issues.

Shortly after returning to MOT in 2011, Sidney was appointed Secretary to the Committee of Inquiry established to look into and develop recommendations from the December 2011 MRT disruptions. He considered this to be one of the highlights of his career, as he had to work independently and resourcefully to ensure a smooth inquiry process, and ultimately to help the Committee to identify the root causes of the disruptions and ways to prevent their recurrence.

Following the conclusion of the Inquiry, Sidney joined MOT's Air Transport Division, where he worked on issues such as the ongoing expansion of Changi Airport, initiatives to strengthen Singapore as an international aviation hub, and the negotiation of a Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement between ASEAN and the EU, which is poised to be the world's first region-to-region air transport agreement.

Sidney looks forward to attending the year-long Master in Public Management programme at the National University of Singapore, as an opportunity to build relationships with and learn from the experiences of other senior public service officers from various countries, and to hone his leadership abilities in preparation for the next stages of his career with MOT and its statutory boards.

Sim Zhicong Victor
CAAS Postgraduate Scholar



Mr Sim Zhicong Victor, a postgraduate scholar, is currently pursuing his Masters in Public Affairs at the University of California, Berkeley.

Victor has been involved in various areas of aviation development since joining CAAS in 2008. These included policies to ensure Singapore remains an attractive hub for airlines and passengers, policies concerning airspaces managed by Singapore, and the coordination of measures to boost Changi Airport's runway capacity. His work also had an international dimension, in having to negotiate with foreign counterparts for more air services between Singapore and their countries, as well as managing CAAS' relations with these countries' airlines, among other areas.

Victor spent the last three years on secondment to MOT, where he worked on many issues extending beyond aviation. For example, he collaborated with colleagues at MPA and LTA to improve connections between Changi Airport and the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal. He also worked closely with colleagues at other ministries, such as for the negotiation of multi-sectoral agreements with other countries.

Victor is passionate about aviation because it is an industry that can open many opportunities for the wider economy and society. The outcomes of his work are very tangible. For example, successful air services negotiations, as well as initiatives to increase Changi Airport's capacity, have led to many new flights being launched – you can see new destinations being advertised by travel agents, and more companies expanding to these countries. Of course, his work is not without challenges. Aviation is very susceptible to socio-economic developments around the world, and new technologies must be managed carefully – they could propel Singapore ahead of our competitors or significantly disrupt our work. CAAS officers like Victor need to be highly adaptable and always pushing the boundaries to make sure that our aviation sector is something that Singaporeans will always be proud of.

Frank Lai
LTA Postgraduate Scholar



Mr Frank Lai, a postgraduate scholar, is Deputy Project Manager of Tunnelling with LTA. He is going to pursue a Master in Tunnelling and Underground Space at University of Warwick, in the U.K.

As a tunnel engineer, Frank faces the challenge of understanding the different ground conditions, the performance of the machine and the need to mitigate any possible risk/impact to ensure that the works progress smoothly as planned.

His previous project, the Downtown Line C937 Fort Canning Station, involved four tunnels concurrently being dug. From the west was a drive tunnel headed towards Chinatown Station where LTA undercrossed the Singapore River, the underground road tunnel for CTE, as well as major utilities, and commercial and residential buildings. The most challenging job was the diversion of the Singapore River to remove obstructions prior to tunnelling works, needing through the narrow corridor in a tight 190-metre turning radius without causing adverse effect to the buildings and infrastructure on surface. While from the east, a drive tunnel headed towards Bencoolen Station with high overburden of 60 metre, while crossing Fort Canning Road Tunnel, National Museum and three existing MRT lines (NEL, CCL & NSL), all at the same time without causing negative impact to commuters.

Currently, Frank is working on the Thomson-East Coast Line T226 Marina Bay Station, which involves the construction of a pedestrian linkway directly beneath the existing NSL and CCL tunnels. The challenge is to ensure that the Open Face Rectangular Shield Machine is able to tunnel through the existing live tunnels.

Shen Wanling
MPA Postgraduate Scholar



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Ms Shen Wanling, an MPA postgraduate scholar, is going to pursue a Master of Public Administration at University College London. She was an MPA undergraduate scholar from the 2005 cohort, with a bachelor's degree in Maritime Studies from NTU. She joined MPA as Policy Analyst in the International Department on 25 May 2009.

She was from one of the pioneer batches of the NTU BSc Maritime Studies programme, which is conducted jointly with the BI Norwegian Business School, with support from MPA. When she was offered a scholarship from MPA to pursue undergraduate studies in NTU in 2005, she did not have a good understanding of the maritime industry then, but she had strong interest

in the sector and deep “love” for the sea, because in her leisure time, she enjoyed scuba diving and she had also obtained the Divemaster² qualification some years back.

After having worked in MPA for more than eight years, in various divisions such as International and Shipping that deal with different aspects of the sector, she still feels that there are many other aspects to this multi-faceted sector that she has yet to explore and discover. The learning curve was steep at times and there were numerous occasions when she was thrown into the deep end and expected to pick up technical or operational knowledge within a short span of time. But she felt those experiences were the most memorable and played a significant part in moulding her into who she is today.

Wanling is happy to be given the chance to pursue a Master of Public Administration at University College London. To her, a career in MPA is a continuous process of learning, growth and development. She hopes that her postgraduate studies will allow her to exchange experiences with and learn from people who are in other public sector organisations, be it within Singapore or from other countries.

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² Professional qualification for recreational scuba diving