

Welcome Remarks by AiSP EXCO Member & SVRP Co - Lead,  
Ms Soffenny Yap at  
Student Volunteer Recognition Programme Award Ceremony  
2024,  
19 November 2024, 7.05 PM

1. Good Evening

- a. AiSP Patron, Mr Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State,  
Ministry of Digital Development and Information & Ministry of  
National Development
- b. Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal of Republic Polytechnic
- c. Ms Judy Saw, Director, Wissen International
- d. Parents
- e. IHL Lecturers
- f. Student awardees
- g. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

2. Welcome to the Student Volunteer Recognition Programme Award Ceremony 2024. Firstly, I would like to thank AiSP Patron, SMS Tan for taking the time off your busy schedule to grace this event and providing your unwavering support and dedication to all our SVRP programs and initiatives. Your support reinforces the program's commitment to inspire volunteerism among our future leaders. Today, all our award winners have truly demonstrated how they can make a difference to the cyber ecosystem by volunteering outside of

their curriculum to help create a safer, more inclusive cyberspace and informed online world.

This year, I am thrilled to announce that the SVRP Awards have reached an exciting milestone. We received a record-breaking 456 nominations—our highest ever for the past 5 years. This remarkable increase reflects a growing interest in cybersecurity among the younger generation, and it's a testament to the vibrant spirit, dedication, and enthusiasm of our youth who are stepping forward to make a difference.

3. Of the 456 nominations, 110 students were awarded the Bronze Award, 44 Students were awarded the Silver Award, 7 Students were awarded the Gold Award and for our secondary and college students, 75 Certificate of Merit award. The number of award recipients increased more than twofold, by over 70% from 135 winners last year to 236 winners this year.

#### 4. SVRP Partners

I would also like to take a moment to thank all our SVRP partners. The 2024 Student Volunteer Recognition Programme was made possible thanks to the ongoing strong partnerships between AiSP, the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, the National Youth Council, various institutes of higher learning, our industry partners, and the students who, with the endorsement of their lecturers, stepped forward to be nominated for these awards in recognition of their efforts and contributions.

## **5. AiSP Events**

Over the years, to help our students gain relevant industry experience needed in the cyberspace, AiSP has consistently organized learning journeys for students, including visits to our industry partners. In 2024, AiSP facilitated overseas learning journeys to the Philippines in April and Brunei in September, thanks to the strong support from the National Youth Council, our partners in the South East Asia Cyber Security Consortium (SEACC), and our Corporate Partners who hosted us. Coming up, we have a Learning Journey to Kuala Lumpur in December, featuring the Ladies in Cyber initiative.

7. Through our interviews with students for the SVRP award, we realized many students would like to have cyber programs enhancing their cyber skillset. Therefore, On 8 January 2025, we will kick off the year with our first Youth Meetup, followed by a series of workshops designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of our young participants. These workshops will cover topics such as an introduction to Capture the Flag (CTF) challenges, Industrial Control Systems (ICS), and more, providing valuable insights and hands-on experience in key areas of cybersecurity.

## **8. MoU with RP**

Last but not the least, I'm delighted to announce the Memorandum of Understanding between AiSP and Republic Polytechnic (RP). This collaboration marks an exciting new chapter, focusing on initiatives that support and develop the

talents of RP students and staff in the field of cybersecurity. With this collaboration, we're opening doors to various programs, from internships and Final Year Projects to Capstone Projects, staff-led projects, and attachment opportunities—all aimed at enhancing hands-on experience and building industry-relevant skills.

Through this MoU, we're also stepping up our commitment to public awareness and continuous learning by participating in Continuing Education and Training (CET) courses, which will strengthen Singapore's cybersecurity talent pipeline. Together with RP, AiSP is dedicated to fostering a supportive environment where students and staff can explore, grow, and contribute to our thriving cybersecurity ecosystem.

9. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in making this year's SVRP Awards a success. Let us continue to foster a culture of learning and volunteering as we look forward to another year of even greater achievements.
10. Thank you, and congratulations once again to all our winners!