TOVICE VS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS SINGAPORE





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APPROVED MEMBERSHIPS

Company	Classification	Approval Date
Usrah Travel Pte. Ltd.	Ordinary Member	24 June 2019
Anwaar Al-Himam Umrah & Holidays Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	21 August 2019
Asia A La Carta Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	21 August 2019
Chan Brothers Worldwide Cruise Centre Pte. Ltd.	Ordinary Member	21 August 2019
Wan Ji Corporate Travel Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	26 August 2019
Adam Khoo Empowering Youth Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	11 September 2019
Travel Khakis Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	12 September 2019
EU Mice Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	19 September 2019

The total number of NATAS members as at 20 September 2019 Ordinary Members: 328 • Associate Members: 69 • Honorary Life Members: 5

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

NATAS welcomes the following companies as new members.

Adam Khoo Empowering Youth Pte Ltd

Khoo Learning Technologies Group Adam (AKLTG) Pte Ltd is Singapore's largest training and education company. As Asia's leading Personal and Professional Development organisation, the firm has more than a decade of experience in helping individuals, schools and corporate organisations realise and achieve their greatest potential. Living by the mission "Transforming Lives Every Day". Adam Khoo Empowering Youth Pte Ltd has touched the lives of over 712,350 individuals and 440 organisations.

Anwaar Al-Himam Umrah & Holidays Pte Ltd

Established in 2018, Anwaar Al-Himam Umrah & Holidays Pte Ltd is a private limited company licensed under the Singapore Tourism Board. Led by a director with 20 years of tourism experience in inbound and outbound services, the firm is the first Umrah Visa provider in Singapore with a partnership in Saudi Arabia of the same name. With its strong partnership connections with Saudi Arabia, Anwaar Al-Himam Umrah & Holidays Pte Ltd is set to offer quality tours to travellers.

Asia A La Carta Pte Ltd

A newly set up subsidiary of China A La Carta, Asia A La Carta Pte Ltd was established in Singapore to meet the rising demand for personal tour services in the South Fast Asian region. With a focus on the Luxury Travel Services (Asia) market segment, the company's clientele includes Latin Americans and Europeans. Other than FIT Experience Tours and Inbound/Outbound Golf Tours, Asia A La Carta Pte Ltd also organises Educational Student Tour Groups.

EU Mice Pte Ltd

EU MICE Pte Ltd offers unique and attentive bespoke travel experiences. In the span of five short years, the firm has grown to become a recognised provider of MICE services for a diverse clientele that includes prominent companies from the finance, health care and education sector. Whether it's a busy professional or an adept vacationer, EU MICE Pte Ltd is ready to serve every traveller's needs.

Chan Brothers Worldwide Cruise Centre Pte Ltd

Chan Brothers Worldwide Cruise Centre is proud to be travellers' first port of call for the voyage of their dreams. Offering the widest range of international and regional cruise lines, travellers can set sail to Alaska, America, Asia, Australia, Europe, Mediterranean or New Zealand. And with instant confirmation via its online platform, www. ChanBrothersCruises com offers a convenient onestop cruise, flight, hotel and tour booking for the perfect cruise vacation.

Travel Khakis Pte Ltd

A Singapore-based travel agency, Travel Khakis Pte Ltd specialises in providing a wide range of travel solutions, from booking of flights, hotels, transportation and attractions to offering cruises, tour packages and Visa application. With experience in both inbound and outbound tours, the company provides tour customisation for both individuals and corporate organisations.

Usrah Travel Pte Ltd

Usrah Travel Pte Ltd is an integrated travel and tour agency specialising in delivering the best travel experiences for Muslim travellers who do not wish to compromise their faith-based needs. With more than 25 years of experience in the industry, the company truly understands the needs and nuances of Muslim travel. Besides tour packages and destinations specifically catered for Muslim travellers. Usrah Travel Pte Ltd also offers Umrah and Hajj pilgrimages services.

Wan Ji Corporate Travel Pte Ltd

Incorporated on 19 February 2019, Wan Ji Corporate Travel Pte Ltd is an inbound tour operator specialising in Singapore tourism. Besides incentive and leisure tour packages, the company also offers educational learning journeys, business travel and meetings, incentive travel and conventions and exhibitions (BTMICE) tours. Understanding that every traveller is different, Wan Ji Corporate Travel Pte Ltd customises travel itineraries based on clients' preferences and budget.



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Thinking big about travel at **NATAS HOLIDAYS 2019!**



From 2-4 August 2019, NATAS held our NATAS Holidays fair at the Singapore EXPO Halls 5 and 6 and, boy, was it an exciting affair! With the theme "Think Big, Think NATAS", the 55th edition of this highly anticipated event saw a total of 108,039 visitors and a record-breaking 106 exhibitors across 908 booths over three days. We also welcomed 14 National Tourist Organisations, including the Polish Tourism Organization, Embassy of the Republic of Maldives, Tourism Melaka and Ukraine who were participating for the very first time.





(top row, 3rd from left) and; Mr Dawid Mazur, Director of Polish Tourism Organization (top row, 4th from left) together with our performers.

But the highlight of the fair was the introduction of the Polish Tourism Organization and LOT Polish Airlines as co-destination partners for Holidays 2019. "This timely partnership with the Polish Tourism Organization holds great significance as Singapore and Poland celebrates its 50th year of diplomatic relations. This collaboration deepens the long-standing ties of the Polishfriendship," remarked Singaporean President of NATAS, Mr Steven Ler.

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Jan Wójcik, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Embassy of the Republic of Poland Singapore shared the same sentiments in his speech, saying: "In a year of the 50th Anniversary of establishing of diplomatic relations between Poland and Singapore, in a year of Bicentennial, in a year of growing Polish-Singapore friendship, you and us should do more, we should do more together."



Avid travellers had a great time exploring NATAS Holidays 2019 and discovering the many great deals on offer. Besides snapping up attractive tour packages to exotic destinations, attendees were treated to a host of exciting stage events and activities. In conjunction with NATAS' 40th anniversary celebration, 1,500 visitors to the fair also received exclusive goodie bags filled with quality travel beauty products, travel Wi-Fi vouchers, F&B items and more! In addition, those turning 40 this year were surprised

with a special goodie bag sponsored by Takasaki City, Tourism Authority of

Thailand and Taiwan Tourism Bureau,

Singapore.



Adding to the festive spirit of the fair were the many performances put up by various exhibitors. Topping the list was the Polish folk dances by LOT Polish Airlines, which are a tradition rooted in 10 centuries of Poland's culture and history and only performed during major events. Another crowd favourite was the highenergy traditional drum art performance by the popular Ten Drum Percussion Art Group from Taiwan. And for the young



and young at heart, there was a Hong Kong Disneyland showcase by Dynasty Travel.





But what delighted fair visitors the most was the NATAS Grand Draw. Featuring exciting prizes including return Business Class tickets to London on Singapore Airlines, a 6D5N cruise in a Palace Suite for two onboard Genting Dream and a 13-day Swiss-France tour package by Super Travels, the draw saw many lucky attendees walking away with huge smiles on their faces.









In all, it has been a great ruby anniversary celebration for NATAS that would not have been possible without the strong trust and support from our sponsors, partners and visitors. In Mr Steven Ler's words: "As we continue to build on our strength and bring forth quality shows, NATAS is deeply grateful for all the support that has been showered upon us."

Till next year; see you at NATAS Travel 2020!





A Big Thank You to **Our Sponsors!**

Thank you all who were a part of NATAS Holidays 2019. We are extremely grateful for your continued support throughout the years! On behalf of the association, we would like to express our appreciation to our Major Sponsors, AIG and Destination Partner Poland, co-helmed by Polish Tourism Organization and LOT Polish Airlines. We would also like to give a shout out to all our Sponsors especially Singapore Airlines and Super Travels for their generous sponsorship and prizes.













Official Travel Insurer



Destination Partner - Poland





Strategic Media Partner











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To thank our loyal supporters of NATAS Holidays, we organised a special NATAS giveaway as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations. Recognising the draw of social media among consumers today, we conducted a social media contest on Facebook and Instagram from 8 July to 1 August 2019 to give our fans a chance to win exclusive prizes.



participate giveaway, participants had to 'Like' NATAS' Facebook page, follow us on Instagram and share their comments on what they want to see in Warsaw or NATAS Holidays 2019. Up for grabs were a pair of return air tickets from Singapore to Poland, Warsaw, sponsored by LOT Polish Airlines and three FreshKon Hampers worth \$132 each.

GOODIES GALORE at NATAS Holidays 2019!



But that's not all! NATAS partnered with the Privilegez app to give out more than 1,500 limited edition goodie bags worth \$30 to fair attendees. In addition to the items inside the bag, visitors were entitled to redeem \$5 worth of credits in the app!

To top that, those who were turning 40 could also redeem a birthday goodie bag simply by flashing their identification card at the fair. All goodie bags were fully redeemed, thanks to the support we received during the fair.





Special thanks to our corporate sponsors for their generous contributions to our goodie bags: Astalift, Avis and Budget Car Rental, Bifesta, Freshkon, Jumbo, Korea Tourism Organisation, LOT Polish Airlines, Ready To Travel, Singapore Airlines, Singapore Tourism Board, Suisai Singapore, Taiwan Tourism Bureau, Takasaki City, Topicrem, Tourism Authority of Thailand and Travel Guide.

+ NATAS **EVENTS**

VATAS HOlidays 2019 PICTORIAL SPECIAL































+UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

An interview with

NATAS Youth Committee Chairman,

Mr Albert Tan

At the NATAS Youth Committee (NYC), our mission is to increase our reach and awareness of what we do by engaging young travel professionals in the committee. With this in mind, we reached out to Mr Albert Tan, Media and Business Development Director of Pegasus Travel Management Pte Ltd and Chairman of the NATAS Youth Committee, to find out what makes him tick.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your most prominent achievements in the travel sector

I'm someone who finds fulfilment in seeing beyond the norm. That's why it's no surprise that my first foray into the working world was in the advertising industry. During my six years in the sector, I focused on media planning and strategy before making the switch to the travel industry.

While it's only been slightly more than two years since I joined the travel sector, it's already given me a great sense of achievement. Case in point, slightly over a month ago, I launched STRING (https://stringtravel.com/), a travel social mobile app. In short, it's a community-based platform where users can come together to share fond travel memories so that others can be inspired by the images and stories and create their own.

Our aim is to not only make travel planning a seamless and enjoyable process and, more importantly, for post-travel to be meaningful and nostalgic. It's a contemporary and unorthodox take on travel, but, to me, that's what makes it exciting. And it is this same attitude and mindset that drives me to contribute to the travel sector.

How did you get to know/start out in NATAS?

When I first started working in Pegasus Travel Management, my family business that is being run by my older brother Charles, I saw many opportunities to make more friends in the travel trade. And it was through one of them that I was introduced to Javiny, matron of Quotient Travel Planner and Chairperson of the NATAS Manpower and Training committee (which the youth committee sits under). Somehow, Javiny appreciated the mindset that I have, and things just clicked from there.





Why did you join NYC?

Travel is a phenomenon that is widely appreciated but it has also evolved tremendously in recent years. Just as how I see STRING can bring a new outlook to the travel sector, the same could be said about how NYC can work together with the respective committees in NATAS to refresh the perception and vibe of the travel industry, especially when it comes to travel agents. Plus, I wanted to be in the company of like-minded folks, to meet new people and make new friends and the role has given me a wonderful means of doing so.

What led you to lead the committee?

As I mentioned, I find fulfilment in seeing beyond the norm. For some, the lack of experience results in fear when it comes to leading. But for me, I see it as an opportunity to revitalise the trade. And it is because of this mindset that I had the honour of meeting so many new friends from NATAS, STB and other fellow members of the youth committee who have made my journey a smooth and fulfilling one.

What are the current objectives of NYC?

A large part of our efforts is focused on engaging and retaining young talents. However, we also see a growing importance in attracting new talents as they bring new perspectives to shake things up in a positive way. But beyond just the younger talents, to any other passionate individuals of the trade whose voices want to be heard, "we are coming for you!"

Are there any initiatives that the NYC have introduced or are being incubated?

Most definitely. We want to go back to basics by first building a strong database who'd be keen to attend or be part of our future initiatives. For example, the Pre-SIP programme is a great way for us to engage potential talents, address doubts and share new opportunities. That said, we are also exploring more synergised efforts that will bring both the young talents and veterans of the industry together in a mutually meaningful way. So stay tuned!

Any inspiring/interesting encounters you've had in NYC?

The entire journey so far has been an inspiring one. When I was appointed as the Chairman of the NYC, I had only one other friend in the trade. With her help along with STB, NATAS and those in the Manpower & Training committee, NYC now has a team of six passionate travel enthusiasts.

Our efforts also really paid off when we ran a pre-SIP sharing session in Temasek Poly. At the end of the session, students were giving feedback that the 1.5-hour session was too short. Seeing so many of them stay back to interact with the speakers was truly a testament to the efforts from the team.

Any long-term goal/future plans/directions for the NYC?

In the long run, we don't just want to appeal to the younger talents of the industry. Age should not be a limiting factor. As long as you're passionate about the trade, we hope to be able to leverage your experience. But for now, our focus is going back to basics, to rebuild our database. This is in preparation for the bigger plans that we will have in time to come.

Any words of advice for young travel professionals?

To quote Jennifer Lee, an American film director and screenwriter, "Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire". If you've found your passion for the travel trade, let no one tell you otherwise and let no one confine your dreams as well as vision. For all you know, you might be the next aspiring leader for the industry, and many others will look to you for inspiration and validation.

To my fellow friends in the industry, I hope you see change as a positive step in attuning ourselves to the ever-changing needs and wants from the industry. And if you ever fancy a drink after a tough week at work or are keen in meeting more friends of the trade, you know who to call!

If you are interested to join the NATAS Youth Committee, please write in to ia@natas.travel to find out more!



"Opening Your World" with NATAS Youth Committee





It was an exciting day for the NATAS Youth Committee (NYC) when they attended Temasek Polytechnic's Pre-SIP at the Temasek Tourism Academy on 8 May 2019. Led by Chairman Albert Tan, the event saw the committee interacting with students around the theme "Opening Your World".

Besides sharing their experience, the NYC and our guest speakers also introduced the various progression paths available in the travel industry. In all, the students had a great time and gained a wider perspective of what the travel sector has to offer.





Free entrance for travel agents!

Introducing the 1st The Travel Mart!

Calling all travel partners! On 10 October 2019, Travel Mart Singapore, will be holding its first The Travel Mart in partnership with overseas tourism partners. This event brings together key stakeholders of the tourism sector to catalyse new travel programmes.

Date: 10 October 2019 (Thursday) Time: 1300-1330 hours (Registration)

1330-1730 hours (The Travel Mart)

Location: Hotel Chancellor @Orchard

Spaces are limited so RSVP now!

noom@ttmthetravelmart.com; elyz@ttmthetravelmart.com; elyz.ttmthetravelmart@gmail.com

Forging closer ties with Moscow



At NATAS, we regularly welcome representatives from overseas tourism agencies as part of our efforts to boost collaboration and enhance tourism numbers to and from Singapore. On 25 June 2019, we enjoyed a courtesy visit by guests from the Moscow City Tourism Committee. Besides learning about Moscow hospitality and discussing potential areas for tourism development, we also explored possible partnerships and various opportunities to drive tourism traffic via NATAS member agencies to Moscow.



Courtesy Visit to the Consulate Office of the Republic of San Marino in Singapore



On 19 September 2019, NATAS visited the Consulate Office of the Republic of San Marino in Singapore where their Honorary Consul Ms Elaine Seow and Ms Alessandra Busignani, International Affairs Delegate, delivered a detailed presentation on this beautiful landlocked country within Italy. San Marino was presented as a 'must-see' for travel agents who are curating any trips to Italy where lots of travel opportunities awaits. The meeting concluded with fruitful ideas for future collaborations. Do check out this unique destination in the upcoming months on various NATAS platforms.



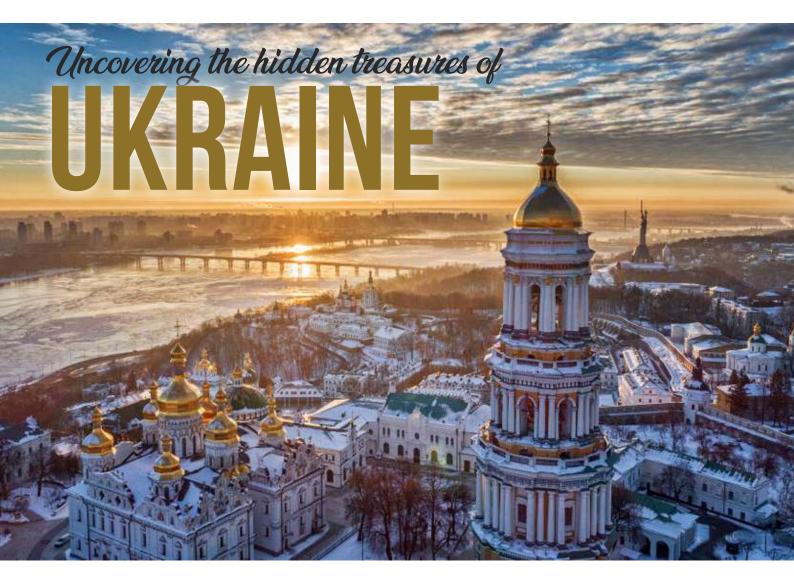
3rd NATAS General Membership Meeting

On 5 July 2019, NATAS held its 3rd General Membership Meeting (GMM) @ Spectrum, DUO Tower, with the aim of boosting collaboration among key travel partners and international embassies. Besides local agencies such as the Infocomm Media Development Agency, Moolah Go and Skills Future Singapore, the event also welcomed representatives from the Embassy of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan and the Embassy of Ukraine.

Through Destination Updates, attendees were introduced to the various sights and activities available in Jordan and Ukraine.



In addition, participants picked up valuable tips on boosting revenue and setting up a skills framework for their business. In light of the PDPA, the event also covered key points about Data Protection Trustmark Certification.



Huge, diverse and shrouded in mystery, Ukraine is Europe's diamond in the rough. A nation of vibrant cities, warm-hearted hospitality and off-the-beaten track experiences, it is an amazing destination, regardless of its political, territorial and economic difficulties.

EXPLORE KIEV'S ECLECTIC ARCHITECTURE

For first-time visitors to Ukraine, there's no better place to begin your journey than in Kiev (Kyiv), the nation's capital itself. With "Everything starts in Kyiv" as its official promotional motto, there's little doubt Kiev has plenty to offer. Known internationally as the "City of Golden Domes", the capital is famed for its many superb churches with their glistening gold cupolas.

Lovers of architecture will also be thrilled to discover the multitude of architectural treasures that dot the horizon along the banks of the mighty Dnipro River. But that's not all. Kiev is home to not just one, but two, UNESCO World Heritage sites - Kiev Pechersk Lavra (Monastery of the Caves) and St Sophia Cathedral. Not forgetting the Andriyivskyy Descent and the beautiful Art Nouveau-style house decorated with mythical gargoyles and chimaeras.

ENTER THE INFAMOUS CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

From Kiev, travellers who are looking for a truly unique and one-of-a-kind experience should definitely make their way to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power



Plant. The site of one of the worst nuclear disasters in human history, this is a bucket list-worthy trip. After passing through the multiple checkpoints inside the exclusion zone, walk down the massive corridors of the nuclear power plant and explore the still-functional parts of the facility. Listen to stories of the tragic accident and gain a thorough understanding of what happened that fateful night over 30 years ago. See and touch the famous AZ5 button, which was pushed too late by the operators of Reactor 4.



Next, head to the abandoned ghostlike town of Pripyat, which was hastily abandoned the day after the Chernobyl tragedy. Spend hours trekking through the desolate "City of Ghosts" and hundreds of empty houses, which nature has reclaimed from man with its creeping shrubbery and wild tendrils. Stop by the hollows of the amusement park that was never used as the town was evacuated before it could open. Enter the eerily vacant high school with books and learning materials carelessly scattered around on the desks as students scrambled to escape the deadly radiation. End your tour with a radiation scan at an old Soviet radiation control checkpoint.

DISCOVER THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

With its vast territory, it's no surprise that Ukraine is home to some of the most beautiful and awe-inspiring mountain peaks and hiking trails. And the most exciting trails are located in none other



than the Carpathian Mountains. Thrill seekers and adrenaline junkies can look forward to climbing the Carpathians' most popular and highest mountain peak Hoverla, which stands at 2,061 metres above sea level. Needless to say, the views are absolutely breathtaking. There's also Brebeneskul, which rewards climbers with a stunning crystal lake carved by glaciers.

The vast landscape of the Carpathian Mountains is also filled with many natural wonders such as Synevir Lake, which is best known for the tiny island in the middle that looks like the pupil of an eye. Meanwhile, Shypit and Probiy waterfalls present the perfect backdrop for an amazing selfie that will make your friends green with envy. If you're into flowers, don't miss the valley of blooming daffodils. This natural phenomenon happens only once a year in May and draws thousands of tourists to the Carpathians.



Given its majestic mountain peaks and stunning natural wonders, this picturesque destination is home to some of the best ski resorts. During winter, tourists flock to the hills to enjoy activities such as skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing and sledding. In the summer, it's a great place for camping and to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. The fresh mountain air, calming atmosphere and healing resources also make the Carpathians a popular wellness spot. Besides soaking in mineral waters, travellers can look forward to warm, relaxing swimming pools and baths at the many wellness resorts.

RELAX AT THE PEARL OF THE BLACK SEA

No trip to Ukraine is complete without a visit to Odessa, the nation's fourthlargest city. Nestled on a shallow indentation of the Black Sea coast, this

city is well known for its rich culture, mild climate and beautiful beaches. For some seaside fun, head to central Langeron, which is often packed with beach goers enjoying the sun, sand and sea. If Langeron is not your cup of tea, make your way down the coast to Tabu, which is cleaner, less packed and dotted with affordable private beach clubs.

But this lively port has more to offer than just its beaches. The highlight of Odessa is the spellbinding Odessa Opera and Ballet Theatre. Hailed as one of the finest in Europe, this glorious opera house is Odessa's piece de resistance and designed by the Viennese partners Fellner and Helmer in the 1880s. With its magnificent baroque façade, this architectural gem is a sight to behold but it's what it holds inside that makes it utterly magical. The opera house's horseshoe-shaped hall is known for its unique acoustics, making even the lowest sound from the stage perfectly audible everywhere in the hall. Tickets are also reasonably priced so it's definitely worth stopping by for an opera or ballet performance.



The warm hospitality from its people and the wonderful sights it offers definitely places it as one of the top go-to spots for travellers seeking a destination that's off-the-beaten path.





Open doors to exciting career opportunities in Travel and Tourism



Programmes:

IATA Managing the Travel Business Diploma (Feb'20 Intake)

This course will improve skills to supervise and manage a team, initiate change and make business decisions based on sound negotiating strategies and to gain a competitive business strategy by developing new products and marketing it effectively.

Students also gain insight on agency accounting procedures to build business plans that ensure good financial health.



Testimonial of SkillsFuture Study Award for Travel Agent Sector:

Radheka Debi



I have worked in the travel industry for 20 years. I started as a travel executive back in 1998, and after 12 years, decided it was time to start my own business. It came with a lot of new challenges, but my family supported me through it, both financially and with various other aspects of starting a business.

Even after I started, there was always so much to learn that it sometimes became overwhelming. But my passion for travel, and helping people, drove me to carry on. Once, on a large group tour to Malaysia, we had one guy who couldn't walk properly. He was feeling embarrassed for holding the group back, but I told him that it was okay — he was a part of the group and we would take care of him. He was very touched by the way we looked after him, and it made me realise how small gestures can make a big difference. That's why I got into this business.

Of course, running a company requires many skills, and you can never really stop learning. The SkillsFuture Study Award was a great gift for that, as it helped me go for a diploma course that taught me many things I couldn't have learned myself. Now, I plan to hire more people and apply these learnings to grow my company.

Radheka Debi is the Founder and Director at Milagro Travel, a travel agency that organises tours around Asia. She was a recipient of the SkillsFuture Study Award, which she used to fund the IATA Managing the Travel Business Diploma.

Feeling Inspired? Check out the SkillsFuture Study Award for Travel Agent Sector at http://bit.ly/studyaward

This story was first published on the SSG Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/skillsfuture.sg.

DISCOVER MORE AT 6238 8688

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SkillsFuture Credit Eligible Courses

Programmes:

WSQ Tourist Guide Programme (Mandarin : Oct/Dec'19/Feb'20 Intake)

WSQ NATAS Professional Tour Leading (English : Oct/Nov'19 Intake)
(Mandarin : Feb/Mar'20 Intake)

WSQ Create Customer Experience (Nov/Dec'19 Intake)

WSQ Handle Cruise Packages (Nov/Dec'19 Intake)

WSQ Promote Singapore as Tourist Destination (Nov/Dec'19 Intake)

WSQ Sell Product & Services (Nov/Dec'19 Intake)

WSQ Higher Certificate in Tour & Travel Services

(Course under review, launching in Q1'20)

WSQ Diploma in Tour & Travel Services

(Course under review, launching in Q1'20)

WSQ Provide Guide in Eco-Tourism & Nature Tourism

(14 PDC hours)(Sep/Dec'19 Intake)

I noticed the professionalism of teachers; they are focused in many aspects such as class training and tour conducts.

Their sharing in workplace experiences have also given me tremendous insight about tourism. I'm glad I'm able to complete the course in TMIS.

Wong Shi Wei, Tourist Guide Programme (Mandarin)



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