



ITE-Lenovo Outreach Tide Students through HBL and Beyond

New initiative by ITE and Lenovo Singapore aims to bridge technology gap among students.

When Home-based Learning (HBL) was implemented during the Circuit Breaker on 8 April, it posed a huge challenge to many students. While many struggled to keep up with a different style of learning, some, like Muhammad Fitri Ismail, Chua Shu Fern and Hursha'ien Addin, found it difficult to even join in the lessons as they could not afford computers. They had to resort to using their mobile phones just to participate in lessons.

Fitri, a first-year *Higher Nitec* in Maritime Business student at ITE College Central, had to adapt to HBL just two days after school had begun. He said, "I was very anxious initially because there was no way my family could afford a laptop. My dad lost his job and my mum is undergoing cancer treatment. It was difficult coping with assignments and HBL using just our mobile phones."

Bridging the Gap

It was an issue that ITE sought to quickly address and Lenovo Singapore responded by loaning 50 sets of laptops within days, so these students could continue their HBL with ease. The urgent need to bridge this technology gap amongst students was what led ITE and Lenovo Singapore to launch a new initiative, the '**I Learn U Learn**' programme (ITE and **Lenovo United Learning Programme**) on 16 October 2020.

To kick start this programme, Lenovo Singapore donated 50 laptops so that needy students could continue HBL without disruption and use it for schoolwork. Lenovo Singapore's Country General Manager, Ronnie Lee, shared, "Technology should be an enabler that empowers any student to learn to their best ability. We hope those students will always be thirsty in learning and with that, shape a better tomorrow for the next generations to come." May those students always be thirsty in learning and with that, shape a better tomorrow for the next generations to come." Volunteers from Lenovo Singapore will also teach these students 'HBL skills', which include simple laptop troubleshooting and learning to use Microsoft Teams or Zoom for teleconferencing.



Paying it Forward

Under this pilot scheme, ITE students who receive these laptops will pay it forward by rendering 12 hours of community service. They will teach less privileged children under Central Singapore Community Development Council's Nurture programme the same 'HBL' skills that they have learnt to support them in their own Home-based Learning.

Another beneficiary, first-year *Nitec* in Fitness Training student, Hursha'ien Addin, had to pick up such skills from his classmate when he first received the laptop. His experience has spurred him to impart these skills to others. "My experience taught me the importance of learning and getting used to software required for HBL. I want to help others pick up these skills too so that they can be better prepared in the future," he said.

Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District, said "The 'I Learn U Learn' initiative by Lenovo and ITE teaches our students the value of caring for the community and paying it forward. By working together and helping each other out, we will become a better community amidst the challenges brought about by Covid-19."

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About ITE

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) was established as a post-secondary institution in 1992, under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and a key developer of national skills certification and standards, skilling Singapore for the future economy. It offers three key programmes:

- Pre-Employment Training for youths after secondary education,
- Continuing Education and Training for adult learners, and
- Industry-Based and Work-Study Programmes with employers.

Under its 'One ITE System, Three Colleges' Governance Model, ITE has three Colleges - ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West, each empowered to develop their own niches of excellence to enhance students' success and the attractiveness of an ITE Education.

About Lenovo Singapore

Lenovo (HKSE: 992) (ADR: LNVGY) is a \$50 billion Fortune Global 500 company, with 63,000 employees and operating in 180 markets around the world. Focused on a bold vision to deliver smarter technology for all, we are developing world-changing technologies that create a more inclusive, trustworthy and sustainable digital society. By designing, engineering and building the world's most complete portfolio of smart devices and infrastructure, we are also leading an Intelligent Transformation – to create better experiences and opportunities for millions of customers around the world.