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MEDIA RELEASE

ITE Students to Receive More Support to Excel with New MENDAKI Scholarship

Muslim students studying at the Institutes of Technical Education (ITE) can look forward to a new opportunity to help support their educational journeys. A Memorandum of Understanding between Yayasan MENDAKI and Dr Jai Prashanth Rao was signed on 8 December 2016 at Wisma MENDAKI to establish the Yayasan MENDAKI – Jai Prashanth Rao Scholarship. Dr Rao, a Consultant Neurosurgeon in National Neuroscience Institute (NNI), is a two-time national competitive MedTech Grant award winner who had developed a prototype medical device to monitor severe head injury patients.

Mdm Tuminah Sapawi, CEO of Yayasan MENDAKI highlighted, “in line with MENDAKI’s focus on empowering the Muslim community, we believe that being equipped with necessary skillsets for future employability is crucial to stay relevant in an evolving landscape. We hope this scholarship can help ITE students channel their focus on excelling and building capacity. Moving forward, we want to inspire the spirit of seeking knowledge in our students.”

The scholarship will be given to one student each year. Disbursed in two payouts, the successful applicant will receive \$3,500 per year to cover course expenses for a maximum for 4 years. The student is required to show good progress and maintain a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5.

As part of the scholarship, recipients will have engagement sessions with Dr Rao twice yearly. During these sessions, the students will share progress updates and educational journeys with Dr Rao.

“As a believer in the value of giving, I wanted to take on an active role in supporting our youth’s educational journey,” said Dr Rao after the signing. “I commend MENDAKI’s emphasis on education. As such, I hope the scholarship can further contribute to the cause by advocating excellence in these students.”

Singaporean Muslim students who have achieved good results in their GCE 'O' or 'N' levels and obtained proof of acceptance into the ITE are eligible to apply for the scholarship. More details on the requirements and criteria is available through MENDAKI's website at www.mendaki.org.sg. Applications will be open from March to April 2017.

Yayasan MENDAKI welcomes the support of individuals such as Dr Rao in developing the community towards excellence. The effort and experience invested by corporations and individuals to boost societal progression are exemplary initiatives which add value to Singapore's development.

We hope that your kind agency will be able to carry this article. Thank you.

Annex A – Background of Donor

Dr Jai Prashanth Rao is a Consultant Neurosurgeon in National Neuroscience Institute (NNI). He graduated with a *Medicinae Baccalaureus, Baccalaureus Chirurgiae* (MBBS) degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia in 1999. He has over 10 years' experience in looking after neurosurgical patients and was awarded a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh FRCSEd (SN) in 2013. He is also a Core Faculty member of the SingHealth Neurosurgery Residency Programme. A two-time national competitive MedTech Grant award winner, he had developed a prototype medical device, to monitor severe head injury patients.

Being extensively involved in the education of medical students, Dr Rao teaches at the three medical schools in Singapore. He also wishes to share his knowledge and experience in mentoring with Yayasan MENDAKI's group of youth mentors. As he believes in the value of giving, he wanted to play his part in supporting ITE students from minority groups.

Annex B – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why was the scholarship established?

Dr Jai Prashanth Rao and his wife strongly believe in the inter-racial fabric in Singapore. He acknowledges MENDAKI's focus on Education and wanted to assist the Malay Muslim community towards a Community of Excellence.

2. What is the value of the scholarship?

- Each Scholarship shall be valued at S\$3,500 per annum and is intended to cover tuition fee and living expenses of each of the student granted the Scholarship.
- Duration of the scholarship is up to a minimum period of study leading to a NITEC or Higher NITEC or maximum of 4 years whichever is lower. A student enrolled in a Nitec course for example will be given a scholarship worth \$14,000.00 for the whole duration of 4 years of study (2 years Nitec followed by 2 years at Higher Nitec or lesser)

3. What is the eligibility criteria for the scholarship?

Students who have achieved the following:

- GCE 'N' qualification, the aggregate score for Mathematics and best 3 subjects must not exceed 9 points. Or
- GCE 'O' qualification, the aggregate score for English Language, Mathematics and best 3 subjects must not exceed 26 points.
- Students with good academic results will be given priority for the award. However if the results are comparable, then those with a lower family income should be given priority.

4. Is it open to all ITE students including those enrolled in the Full-Time 3-Year NITEC courses with Enhanced NITEC Foundation Programme?

Yes.

5. To be eligible for the scholarship, what courses can the students enrol in?

The preferred courses for the scholarship but not limited to include Information Technology, Cloud Computing, Security Technology, Cyber & Network Security, Computer & Networking, Interactive Design, Community Care & Social Services, Nursing

6. How many scholarships are awarded each year?

One scholarship is available each year.

7. Is there a bond for the scholarship?

No bond is required but the scholar will be required to complete **30 days of community service work** with Yayasan MENDAKI, to be completed before or within 2 years after graduation.

8. When is the application period?

Applications will be open from March to April 2017.

9. Can students apply for the scholarship if they have yet to confirm enrolment into the ITE?

No.

10. I have received a bursary from the Community Club. Can I apply for the scholarship?

Recipients of the Scholarship will **not** be eligible for any other scholarship/bursary award.

11. I intend to enrol in the Diploma programme (Culinary). Can I apply for the scholarship?

The scholarship is for Certificate and Higher Certificate only.

12. Can existing students currently studying in ITE apply for the scholarship?

If the candidate is a current student, he/she must have achieved a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 at the end of the first year of study.