

UOB distributes more than 2,700 laptops to disadvantaged students in Singapore as part of UOB My Digital Space programme

Bank also joins Digital for Life movement, supported by the IMDA, as key partner to champion digital inclusion



Dominic, a 12-year-old student, received a new laptop through the UOB My Digital Space that will help him in his online learning

Singapore, 9 December 2021 – UOB today announced it will distribute 2,730 laptops to disadvantaged children and tertiary students in Singapore as part of its UOB My Digital Space programme¹.

UOB My Digital Space aims to provide children from disadvantaged backgrounds with digital learning tools and skills. The programme is part of the Bank's broader global #UnitedForYou COVID-19 Relief Programme, which brings together the strengths of the UOB network and like-minded partners to help customers, colleagues and communities through to better times. Since its inception last year, the UOB My Digital Space programme has helped met the digital education needs of close to 1,230 beneficiaries in Singapore.

¹ Please refer to UOB news release: "[UOB launches UOB My Digital Space education programme for disadvantaged children across the region](#)", 30 April 2020.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said, “We are heartened to see many students benefitting from the UOB My Digital Space programme. Our efforts reflect UOB’s commitment to promoting digital inclusion among students from lower-income families, which helps foster greater social inclusiveness. With online learning being the new norm, UOB My Digital Space takes on greater relevance to support disadvantaged students in receiving a quality education. We look forward to working with all of our partners on more initiatives to ensure the young are equipped with the essential resources necessary for their digital learning journey now and into the future.”

UOB will donate 230 new laptops, worth close to S\$300,000, to underprivileged students, particularly tertiary students to facilitate their home-based learning. Recipients will also receive essential home-based learning accessories such as a mouse, a headset with in-built microphone and a multi-USB port.

Mr Suresh Natarajan, Principal of ITE College Central, one of the schools benefiting from the Bank’s laptop donation, said, “Many of our students either do not have a computer device or need to share one device with their siblings and parents, which badly affects their active participation in home-based learning. Many of the students end up accessing lessons from their mobile phones, which may not be ideal.”

In expanding the UOB My Digital Space programme and to encourage a more sustainable future and circular economy, UOB has teamed up with non-profit organisation, Engineering Good, to refurbish and to distribute 2,500 used laptops progressively under Engineering Good’s Computers Against COVID initiative. This new initiative will complement the Bank’s ongoing UOB My Digital Space programme to bridge the digital gap for disadvantaged students. In addition to sponsoring the costs of refurbishment, UOB will donate its decommissioned desktops and laptops, as well as rally its employees in Singapore to donate their pre-loved devices that are in good working condition.

Mr Patrick Hee, Chief Revenue Officer, Engineering Good, said, “The Computers Against COVID collects donated laptops from individuals and companies who would have otherwise disposed of their devices. Engineering Good refurbishes them for the disadvantaged community in Singapore. This enables the beneficiaries to use the laptops for their learning or school purposes and also gives these devices a new lease of life while we reduce e-waste. However, the refurbishment of laptops comes at a price as we need

to repair or upgrade them for use. With our partnership with UOB, we are able to distribute at least 200 laptops every month to benefit the disadvantaged community who need laptops for study or learning.

As part of the UOB My Digital Space programme, UOB will also launch an interactive learning portal that features educational multimedia content on art, environmental sustainability, cybersecurity and financial literacy, as well as game-based learning activities. The National Environment Agency and Cyber Security Agency of Singapore are among the partners that will contribute content to the interactive learning portal, which will be available on all laptops distributed under UOB My Digital Space.

Dominic, 12-year-old student from CareHut@ Jiemin Primary school, said, “Thank you UOB for the laptop. It is good for my student learning space (SLS) work and now I do not need to do my SLS work on a tablet screen that is smaller. I can also do my work without any lagging. With the bigger screen, I can do Math work better, where there are long sums to read. I am also able to use the laptop to learn more coding activities.”

Bank joins IMDA as key partner to champion the Digital for Life national movement

In bridging the digital gap for disadvantaged students, UOB has joined Singapore’s Digital for Life movement, supported by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), as a key partner.

Launched during the President’s Challenge 2021 in February 2021, the national movement aims to galvanise the community to help Singaporeans of all ages and backgrounds to embrace digital learning as a lifelong pursuit and to enrich lives through digital technology². The Bank will work closely with IMDA and various community partners such as schools and social service agencies through the UOB My Digital Space Programme to distribute laptops and to conduct digital literacy and coding programmes.

Mr Lew Chuen Hong, Chief Executive of IMDA, said, “Digital for Life is a national movement that aims to tap the energy of all Singaporeans to help those less digitally able. I am heartened to see UOB joining

² Source: IMDA media release: “[President Halimah Yacob Launches President’s Challenge 2021, Announces New National Movement](#)”, 9 February 2021.

Digital for Life as a key partner. I look forward to more organisations joining our meaningful cause and together, build an inclusive digital society.”

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About UOB

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of around 500 branches and offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world’s top banks: Aa1 by Moody’s Investors Service and AA- by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings. In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as branches and representative offices across the region.

Over more than eight decades, generations of UOB employees have carried through the entrepreneurial spirit, the focus on long-term value creation and an unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers and our colleagues.

We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are dedicated to helping our customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB is steadfast in our support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

About Digital for Life movement



The DfL movement was launched by President Halimah Yacob on 8 February 2021 to help build a digitally inclusive society. The movement aims to galvanise the community to help Singaporeans embrace digital as a lifelong pursuit, and to enrich their lives through digital. The DfL movement supports projects and activities that promote Digital Technology and Inclusion and Digital Literacy and Wellness. Learn more about the DfL movement at www.imda.gov.sg/digitalforlife.

For media queries, please contact:

Olanda Low
Group Strategic Communications and Brand
Email: Olanda.Low@uobgroup.com
Tel: (65) 6539 3981

Kelyn Tan
Group Strategic Communications and Brand
Email: Kelyn.TanSW@uobgroup.com
Tel: (65) 6539 3967