

# Getting To Know Our Students

**Bernard Tung, Master of Arts (Educational Management) and  
Master of Arts (Instructional Design and Technology) graduate**



**Bernard Tung**  
is currently the President  
of the NTU NIE Alumni  
Association (AA).

**Please share with us your professional life's journey thus far and at which point in your career did you aspire to do a higher degree programme?**

I am currently working at the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF). Throughout my career with the RSAF, I had served various instructional and staff appointments in the area of training development for many years. When I reached the age of 40, I decided that I wanted to continue doing something related to training and education after I retire from the RSAF. Hence, I took up a Psychology degree with UNISIM (now SUSS), followed by an Master of Arts in Education Management (MAEM) with NIE and subsequently a second Master of Arts in Instructional Design and Technology (MAIDT), also with NIE.

**What attracted you to your chosen programme at NIE?**

The reason for choosing MAEM was because it provided good insights into the issues in education, not just in Singapore, but also in other countries, which I find most interesting. It also gave me a deeper sense of the challenges that school leadership and teachers faced. I chose MAIDT because I was keen on solving training performance issues that were faced by governments and private institutions. In addition, this particular programme at NIE provided breadth and depth into the instructional design and technology issues. Lastly, as MAIDT is an established programme, I was confident that I would be able to learn much from the programme.

**Has your experience in NIE been beneficial to you in bringing forth changes in your area of work?**

Yes. It helped me tremendously in Training Needs Analysis. The experience I had gained from my studies helped me better analyse the performance problems in my workplace and derive better solutions.

**Being the first president for the NTU NIE Alumni Association, can you share with us your feelings about it?**

I feel excited and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the first president of the NTU NIE Alumni Association (AA). When I was going through the MAIDT programme as a student, I benefited much from my lecturer, Associate Professor Cheung Wing Sum, as he would invite his alumni to share with us their tacit knowledge, experience and insights. These are useful information that we cannot find on the Internet or in books. Such arrangements do not just help in our learning journey, but they also allow us to form networks and promote engagement between existing students and alumni, which benefit both parties.

These get-along sessions prompted Associate Professor Cheung and a group of us to set up the MAIDT Alumni group. Later, we found out that Associate Professor Lim Kam Ming was also working to set up the NTU NIE AA with members from other programmes, such as the PhD programme and Teaching Scholars Programme. In the end, we came together to form the NTU NIE AA and I was elected to lead the team.

To grow the association, I think there are three important areas to focus on. First, it is to build long term relationships with the alumni, as our fundamental aim is to provide support for the alumni at different stages of their lives in learning and work. Second, we aim to build sub-committees. By having more active sub-committees, we would be able to provide more resources and greater opportunities for collaboration, as well as hold more activities for the alumni. Finally, we hope to identify the interests of the alumni so that we can organise activities based on their needs.

**Pertaining to the above question, what are some of the activities/plans you have in mind to engage the alumni in NIE?**

In the coming months, we intend to communicate with the alumni on the set-up of the NTU NIE AA and encourage them to join our online platform where we can continue to engage each other. In addition, we also intend to organise activities such as talks and webinars and invite guest speakers to share their knowledge and expertise with our alumni. Through these activities, we hope to help them learn and grow and build their confidence in the NTU NIE AA.