PRESS RELEASE

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Ignite, Inspire, Innovate: NUS-ISS spotlights possibilities and impact for the next phase of AI transformation while strengthening support for SMEs at its Annual Luncheon

The event celebrates partnership milestones, learners' journeys and highlights NUS-ISS' industry-wide focus on AI transformation, alongside initiatives such as the Show Me Your Agents Hackathon and ALPS programme to help SMEs address real business challenges.

Singapore, 19 October 2026 - NUS-ISS is strengthening its efforts to support industries and organisations as they navigate the next phase of AI transformation, while expanding practical support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to turn business challenges into actionable solutions.

These efforts were spotlighted at the NUS-ISS Annual Luncheon 2026, themed "**IGNITE. INSPIRE. INNOVATE.**" held at Conrad Singapore Orchard and graced by Guest-of-Honour Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of National Development. The event brought together industry partners, alumni, learners, and staff to reflect on the institute's milestones and look ahead to a world where AI is reshaping both work and leadership.

Turning business challenges into AI solutions

A key highlight was the prize presentation for the NUS-ISS Show Me Your Agents Hackathon. Powered by AWS and supported by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), the hackathon challenged SMEs, students, professionals, start-ups and technology enthusiasts to develop AI agent-powered solutions to real business problems. A total of 440 participants across 114 teams took part, with 10 finalist teams pitching their solutions at the Finale Demo Day on 10 October 2026.

The winners are:

	SME category	**Public category**
1st prize	**Team Name: Team Interns** Mr Sim Yong En Ivan	**Team Name: Questbond** Ms Fang Xinyi

	Ms Caroline Goh Qian Hui Ms Chee Lexi Ms Tan Jianzhen	Ms T. Keerthi Reddy Mr Pavan Nagur Ms Wu Yushan

Special awards sponsored by SBF went to Team: **MOSS** (SME Ready Award), Team: **AI've Got This** (Best Agents Use Award) and Team: **Binary Beast** (Social Impact Award).

More information on the hackathon is available in the accompanying media factsheet.

NUS-ISS is also piloting the Active Learning for Problem Solving (ALPS) programme with SBF member companies to help businesses move from recognising the need for transformation to identifying what they can do next. Working with their own organisational challenges, business leaders are guided to rethink existing approaches, develop potential solutions and move promising ideas towards pilot-ready implementation.

Together, the Show Me Your Agents Hackathon and ALPS provide complementary pathways for SMEs to experiment with new technologies and apply them to real business needs. They form part of NUS-ISS' broader work with industry to build the capabilities organisations need as AI becomes increasingly embedded in operations, decision-making and value creation.

Building AI-ready capabilities through industry partnerships

Long-standing industry partnerships are also translating learning into workplace capabilities. Through its partnership with NUS-ISS, which began in 2019, NCS employees have completed 1,706 Graduate Certificates, enabling them to progressively build new capabilities while applying their learning on the job. In 2026, 68 NCS employees were conferred the Master of Technology in Software Engineering or Enterprise Business Analytics.

Since 2025, ST Engineering has trained more than 800 employees through its partnership with NUS-ISS, contributing to its goal of expanding its pool of AI engineers and developers from 2,000 to 5,000 over the next two years. The NUS-ISS programme equips ST Engineering engineers with AI capabilities to augment their deep domain expertise so as to scale innovation and solutions that address real-world customer needs. It remains fully subscribed each month, reflecting sustained demand for these capabilities.

NUS-ISS is also expanding its learning pathways as technology reshapes professional roles. Its new part-time Master of Science in Enterprise Digital Technology Management will welcome its first intake in 2027. The programme is a fully stackable pathway for technology management professionals to bridge business strategy and technical implementation.

"The question for organisations is no longer whether to adopt AI, but how to make it work for their people and their business," said Mr Khoong Chan Meng, Chief Executive Officer of NUS-ISS. "As AI continues to evolve, organisations will need both the technology capabilities and the people capabilities to use it meaningfully. At the same time, we recognise that SMEs may face different challenges in making transformation happen. Through initiatives such as the Hackathon and ALPS, alongside our continued partnerships with the industry and new learning

pathways, we want to provide practical opportunities for businesses to experiment, solve real problems and translate ideas into meaningful outcomes".

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About National University of Singapore (NUS)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 15 colleges, faculties and schools across three campuses in Singapore, with more than 40,000 students from 100 countries enriching our vibrant and diverse campus community. We have also established about 15 NUS Overseas Colleges entrepreneurial hubs around the world.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, research centres of excellence, corporate labs and more than 30 university-level research institutes focus on themes that include energy; environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases; active ageing; advanced materials; risk management and resilience of financial systems; Asian studies; and Smart Nation capabilities such as artificial intelligence, data science, operations research and cybersecurity.

For more information on NUS, please visit nus.edu.sg.

About NUS-ISS

Established in 1981, NUS-ISS nurtures digital talent for the industry through graduate education, executive education programmes, consultancy, applied research, and career services. NUS-ISS guides individuals and organisations to bridge future opportunities through a unique portfolio of multiple learning pathways such as blended learning and stackable programmes, leading the way in shaping the next curve of digital excellence. It offers a wide spectrum of programmes in critical industry disciplines, such as digital leadership, software development, data science, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, product management, smart health and digital innovation.

To date, close to 216,000 digital leaders and professionals from across 8,854 corporate client organisations, and 10,059 graduate programmes alumni have benefitted from NUS-ISS' suite of services. Its programmes are delivered by NUS-ISS staff with an average of more than 20 years of industry experience and supported by a strong network of partners. NUS-ISS also works with industry partners and associations locally and globally to co-create a digital learning ecosystem that inspires and shapes solutions for the digital economy.

For more information visit, www.iss.nus.edu.sg