

Empowering educators



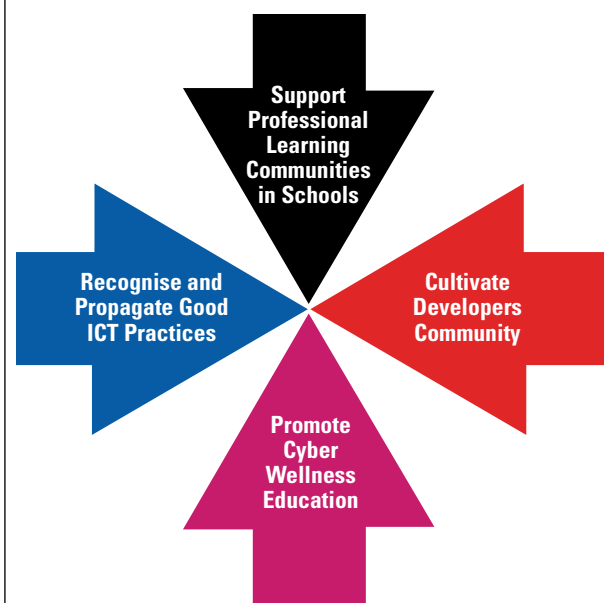
With their extensive classroom experience and invaluable insights into the way students learn, educators play a pivotal role in enabling schools to harness the power of ICT to enrich and transform the learning environment.

Recognising this, the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and Microsoft Singapore have come together to launch BackpackLIVE! – a four-year initiative aimed at inspiring, exploring and scaling ICT practices among educators, in order to develop students' capabilities in self-directed and collaborative learning.

BackPackLIVE! is an expansion of BackPack.NET, which was launched in 2003. Under this earlier initiative, Microsoft, IDA and MOE collaborated to create a shift in the way students experience learning, through the use of innovative digital inking learning applications.

Going forward, BackpackLIVE! will see educators playing an even bigger role in shaping technology innovation through their pedagogical insights.

THE FOUR FOCUS AREAS



It's about inspiring innovation



One of the focus areas of BackpackLIVE! is to promote the innovative use of ICT to transform classroom practices through the support of Professional Learning Communities within and across schools. In the programme, educators will be able to tap on the expertise of overseas education consultants and local research partners to develop pilot projects on the use of ICT to achieve self-directed learning, collaborative learning and effective assessment.

These consultants will facilitate discussions within the Professional Learning Communities and conduct face-to-face and online professional development activities for educators of schools in the programme.

The aim is to cascade the good practices and solutions emerging from these Professional Learning Communities to other schools.

It's about realising possibilities



BackPackLIVE! will give educators the opportunity to see their ICT ideas transform into reality. Under this second area, the developers community will work closely with educators in the Professional Learning Communities to create innovative solutions for the pilot projects undertaken by the schools. Industry partners will be given the opportunity to test-bed their applications and products and determine the effectiveness of their solutions.

Eligible companies will also receive support from IDA under which they can leverage on Microsoft's business and technology capabilities in the education sector to build up their expertise.

In addition, IDA and Microsoft will work with the schools in BackpackLIVE! and companies to showcase the school projects and market the applications developed to other MOE schools and to educational organisations overseas. The ultimate goal is to grow a local pool of industry partners with innovative ICT solutions for the education sector, and to nurture them into global players.

It's about inculcating responsibility



While we encourage our students to use technology for learning, it is also important to educate them on the safe and responsible use of ICT. Our students not only have to be net savvy, but also net-smart.

The third area of BackpackLIVE! is about promoting cyber wellness through actively engaging students in spreading the cyber wellness messages to their peers. Students will stand to benefit more when they are part of the education efforts.

Schools will be invited to take part in the Cyber Wellness Student Ambassador Programme which aims to train a group of students to promote cyber wellness to their peers. Students will be educated on good netiquette and understand the potential dangers that exist in cyber space.

It's about professional development



BackPackLIVE! is about empowering educators to make a difference, and acknowledging the efforts of those who do. In line with this, the fourth area of BackpackLIVE! is focused on recognising and propagating good ICT practices among our teachers.

The MOE-Microsoft Professional Development Award (MMPDA) recognises and rewards teachers who make outstanding, effective and innovative use of ICT to support engaged learning.

An "Innovative Teachers Award" will also be introduced under this initiative to recognise teachers' efforts in areas such as "Content Creation", "Innovation in Community" and "Innovation in Collaboration".

Through these initiatives, BackpackLIVE! will provide educators with opportunities to showcase their ICT-related pedagogical practices to a wider audience at international educational technology forums.

“We aim to leverage the use of ICT to enrich the learning environment for our students and to equip them with essential skills to succeed in the knowledge economy. In collaborating with IDA and Microsoft, BackPackLIVE! will complement our efforts to help us bring about these outcomes.”

— Mrs Tan Ching Yee, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education

“Infocomm has the potential to transform our education sector, allowing our students to develop self-directed and collaborative learning capabilities. IDA is pleased to partner Microsoft and the Ministry of Education in this BackPackLIVE! initiative to bring innovative technology into our schools, which will enable our students to be confident and discerning in using infocomm to learn anytime, anywhere effectively.”

— RADM(NS) Ronnie Tay, Chief Executive Officer,
Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore

“Microsoft is committed to partnering with the government in using ICT to enhance the education environment in Singapore. Riding on the success of BackPack.NET, this renewed collaboration with MOE and IDA will help nurture the innovative efforts of teachers and give students the foundation to learn, collaborate and be equipped for the knowledge economy.”

— Ms Jessica Tan, Managing Director,
Microsoft Singapore

For more information on the BackPackLIVE! programme, please send your enquiries to info@backpacklive.sg or visit the web site www.backpacklive.sg.

The stakeholders

Ministry of Education www.moe.gov.sg

The Ministry of Education (MOE) formulates and implements education policies and programmes in consultation with its stakeholders. These policies and programmes aim to help all students discover their talents, realise their potential, and develop a passion for learning that lasts through life. MOE also oversees the development and management of the Government and Government-aided primary schools, secondary schools and junior colleges.

Microsoft Singapore www.microsoft.com

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential. Microsoft has committed to support the BackPackLIVE! collaboration by providing access to a panel of education consultants, technical consultancy, as well as development assistance to schools and industry participants.

Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore www.ida.gov.sg

The Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) is committed to growing Singapore into a dynamic global infocomm hub. IDA uses an integrated approach to developing infocommunication in Singapore. This involves nurturing a competitive telecoms market as well as a conducive business environment with programmes and schemes for both local and international companies.