

# Verbinden

German to English Definition: To link up, to connect together  
 A bi-annual Alumni newsletter from Technical University of Munich Asia (TUM Asia)

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## Content

- 03 Career Opportunity Day
- 06 Assuring Material Capabilities
- 08 University To Industry
- 10 Progressing My Engineering Career
- 12 Emerging Trends & Developments in Aerospace

## Director's Message



Since the establishment of TUM Asia in 2002, the alumni numbers continue to grow steadily every year. Each alumnus takes a unique path after graduation. This issue of Verbinden aims to share the experiences of different alumni working across various industries, giving insight on how they were able to go further in their careers.

This past month, we held our annual industry networking event exclusively for TUM Asia students and alumni. It was heartening to witness students and alumni turning up to speak to the companies from the various industries.

We were also able to catch up with three of our graduates from different graduating cohorts and disciplines. They have had unique achievements since stepping out into the working world, working in the fields of Electrical Engineering, Industrial Chemistry and Logistics.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue of Verbinden. Stay tuned to our next issue in October 2017.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Markus Wächter**  
Managing Director, TUM Asia

## TUM Alumni Network

More than 45.000 TUM alumni and current students form the TUM network. As an alumnus, you can benefit from your Alma Mater even after graduating. Interact with others in your area, get in touch in real life or virtually, and benefit from these connections for the rest of your life! Find out ways you can benefit as an alumnus. Register now at [together.tum.de](http://together.tum.de).



### COMMUNITY

Register your profile on the TUM network and be part of the global community. Create your own interest group or interact with alumni from all over the world.

[www.together.tum.de/en/](http://www.together.tum.de/en/)



### CAREER

Looking for job opportunities in another country? TUM's online job portal offers a variety of job positions all over the world, made accessible by a click of a button.

[www.db.alumni.tum.de/jobs](http://www.db.alumni.tum.de/jobs)



### ALUMNI SERVICES

Keep in touch with the latest news and events from TUM and TUM Asia. Make sure you keep an updated profile so all campus news can reach your email inbox.

[www.tum-asia.edu.sg/community/alumni/](http://www.tum-asia.edu.sg/community/alumni/)



### EVENTS

TUM and TUM Asia organizes regular events and workshops that can further develop your professional skills. Alumni events such as Stammtischs will also be a great time to catch up with friends.

[www.facebook.com/tum-asia](http://www.facebook.com/tum-asia)



### PUBLICATIONS

Get the news on who's who in the various newsletters and magazines published by the university. All publications are made available in English so you can definitely enjoy the articles within!

[www.tum-asia.edu.sg/media/newsletter/](http://www.tum-asia.edu.sg/media/newsletter/)



### SUPPORT

As an alumna or alumnus, you can support our students in many ways. Through sharing your expertise and experiences in our newsletter, you are able to offer insights into your professional everyday life.

[info@tum-asia.edu.sg](mailto:info@tum-asia.edu.sg)

Photos: Playground Pictures, TUM Asia

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# Career Opportunity Day



Photo: TUM Asia

**T**UM Asia held its annual networking event; Career Opportunity Day, an exclusive event for TUM Asia students and alumni, on 22 March 2017. Companies from various industries in the Engineering sector were present to meet students and alumni. The career networking event served as a platform to increase opportunities for graduates to mingle with representatives from the industry and boost their chances for employability.

With the recent economic slowdown, there has been an increased anxiety among graduates in finding jobs. “Ensuring that our graduates are prepared with industry-relevant knowledge has always been a priority for TUM,” mentioned Dr. Markus Waechter, Managing Director of TUM Asia.

“Over the years, we have continued to maintain close relationships with the industry and updated the curriculum to allow it to be applicable to the jobs being offered”, said Dr. Waechter. The response to the networking event was encouraging, with over 200 students and alumni visiting the booths.

Shiva Shankar Subramanian, a TUM Asia Master of Science in Integrated Circuit Design graduate currently working for Intel, agreed that attending the Career Opportunity Day event was beneficial. “The event provided the opportunity for graduates to network with the industry representatives and allowed them to understand the opportunities available in the industry. Moreover, interacting with the industry provided the platform for graduates to understand the day-to-day functions in the industry to further streamline their career decisions”, mentioned Shiva. •



Photos: TUM Asia

The TUM Asia Career Services Team is the focal point that connects TUM Asia students, its alumni and the employers through a variety of services and events. Through Career Services, TUM Asia hopes to enhance the career management and job search skills of its students and alumni to enable them make more informed career decisions. If you have any enquiries regarding Career Services Team, please send your email to: [CareerServices@tum-asia.edu.sg](mailto:CareerServices@tum-asia.edu.sg)

#### 4 Verbinden

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# Assuring Material Capabilities

## Ma Zhewen

Master of Science in Industrial Chemistry, Class of 2016

Quality Control Supervisor at LEHVOSS New Material (Kunshan) Co., Ltd



Photo: Ma Zhewen (first from right) together with his colleagues

**A Master's degree is a stepping stone to an international career. In this issue of Verbinden, we catch up with a TUM Asia alumnus, who was able to expand his knowledge and language skills through his education at TUM Asia, which prepared him to take on an international career in his home country.**

### Hi Zhewen, how has life been since graduation?

It has been challenging, yet interesting. It was tough to search, apply and wait for companies to get back to me. However, I was fortunate to find a suitable position within half a year. I am currently working at a German company, LEHVOSS New Material, at their new subsidiary in Kunshan, China.

### Tell us more about your day-to-day job responsibilities.

As a quality control manager, my job scopes includes managing the product quality from the start to the end of the production line. Several

tests are required, from checking the moisture content and density to mechanical properties like tensile strength, flexural strength, and impact strength, among others. Such tests provide a big-picture view, and I use the test results to troubleshoot issues or optimize processes with my colleagues in the production team.

### What is one challenge at work that you face?

Besides quality control tests, another important aspect for every manufacturing company is to have a quality management system. Although it requires a significant amount of effort to set it up, it brings

positive results as it increases effectiveness, efficiency and safety. This helps to establish trust among customers by being well-organized.

**“In school, we solve problems posed by our professors. At work, we actually get to solve problems and witness the results first-hand, which is extremely satisfying.”**

Ma Zhewen

### How has graduate studies prepared you for work?

In school, we solve problems posed by our professors. At work, we actually get to solve the problems and witness the results first-hand, which is extremely satisfying. While working in the industry, being precise and careful is important and this is expected of you. Such habits were built during my education and carried on all the way to my job.

### Returning to your home country for work, how has an international education prepared you for work?

Coming from China, studying in a programme that is taught in English has provided me with greater exposure to the language. The education at TUM Asia has helped me to improve my English

“The education at TUM Asia has helped me to improve my English communication skills, which is an essential if you are intending to work for a multi-national enterprise.”

Ma Zhewen

communication skills, which is essential if you are intending to work in a multi-national enterprise. Recently, I have been picking up the German language again. During my Masters, I picked up the basic A1 level before heading to Germany for my Master thesis and internship. At my current job, good German communication skills will be beneficial as it will allow me to easily refer to the documents written in German, which are more common than the English versions. It would also allow me to communicate with the frontline workers in the German sites.

### How have you been able to stay in touch with your classmates?

It has definitely been harder to keep

in contact since graduation. In China, we are unable to use Facebook. Thus, the most straightforward way we can catch up is whenever we are in the same country. However, I am sure that we will always meet each other in the industry.

### Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

When I first started my education at TUM Asia, I could not imagine that in the two years, I would be working in material industry. Life goes in unexpected ways at times and in the years to come, I hope that I am still driven to work hard and be a better person. Perhaps in the future, I might consider a second Master's in Business Administration. •



Photos: TUM Asia



Ma Zhewen (first from right), with his Master of Science Classmates

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# University To Industry

## Rangarajan Rajagopalan

Master of Science in Transport & Logistics, Class of 2014  
Manager (Network Support), Rhenus Logistics Asia Pacific Pte Ltd



Photo: Rangarajan Rajagopalan (top right) together with his classmates

**As a working professional, it can be challenging to transition from student life to working life, and vice versa. Some decide to gain work experience before pursuing further studies. We speak to one of our Master of Science alumni, who shares his experience with TUM Asia.**

### Hi Ranga, what inspired you to pursue a Master's degree after working in the industry?

Being a Mechanical Engineering graduate from India, I spent a year working before deciding to pursue my Masters in Logistics. At the same time, I was keen to stay in Asia. When I came across the Master's degrees offered by TUM Asia, I felt that it was the perfect fit for me.

### How has it been like transitioning from a student to a working adult?

After returning from an extra semester in Germany, I received the opportunity to take up an internship and also write my master thesis with Robert Bosch Asia Pacific Singapore. Following that, I received another internship opportunity from Rhenus Logistics, where I was later offered a full time role as Network Manager.

### What do you miss about being a student?

Everything has changed since stepping out into the working world, from the way I dress, to the way I interact with people. The most drastic change was not being able to meet my school mates as regularly as in the past. I still miss the group studies and all the fun that we had during our university days.

### As a successful professional, what advice would you give to students who are intending to pursue the same journey as you?

I believe that students should make full use of all the opportunities given to them. They can learn a lot through the industry visits organized during their studies. This also helps them to network with the key people of the industry which will be helpful when

searching for their internship and thesis. Forming bonds with your peers is very important. It can be tough to maintain contact when everyone is busy with work. However I see benefits in it, such as being able to revisit your student life and share professional experience, which is helpful for everyone in the industry.

### As a TUM Asia alumnus, what do you hope to see the TUM Asia Alumni Network achieve?

As the TUM Asia Alumni Network was only recently formed the past year, there were only a few activities planned. I would like to see more alumni-student gatherings from TUM Asia. Some activities we could do include paint ball, bowling or even a day trip somewhere around Singapore. •

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# Progressing My Engineering Career

## Lim Wei Ting

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & Information Technology, Class of 2014  
Software Engineer, Continental Automotive Singapore



Photo: Wei Ting (sixth from the left) together with her colleagues

**Lim Wei Ting has always been inspired to pursue Electrical Engineering from a young age. Since completing her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & Information Technology, she pursued her career in the same field. We catch up with Wei Ting to learn more about her experiences in the industry.**

### Hi Wei Ting, can you give our readers a short self-introduction?

Growing up, I was inspired by my dad to pick up engineering as he owns an electrical company. From a young age, I followed and observed him while he was working and was amazed by how assembling multiple components together allowed electrical devices to work. After my GCE 'A' levels, I chanced upon TUM Asia's website while searching for an Electrical Engineering course and was fascinated by the fact that students could attain a high quality education from TUM, which is one of the world's top engineering universities. A TUM degree is recognised not only in

Singapore, but around the world. Not only that, TUM also has strong ties with significant industry partners and I did not have to worry about not being able to secure an internship and a job. I am honoured to be able to work as an intern and become a full-time software engineer in the Singapore branch of a prominent German company, Continental Automotive Singapore.

### Now that you are working in the engineering field, how has your experience been like?

In Continental Automotive Singapore, I have been working on the design and development of the vehicle instrument

cluster. We turn concepts and requirements into actual features in the vehicles. It is extremely rewarding when you see the features that you implemented on the actual products out in the market. I enjoy challenges and constant mental stimulation. Working in Continental gives me a lot of opportunities to analyse new issues and develop new features. Sometimes, the features or issues are not that simple and I will take longer time to complete or resolve them. However, the sense of satisfaction I have at the end process is undeniably rewarding. Most importantly, I am able to gain new perspectives and improve my



analytic skill after every projects. It's an enriching experience!

**How has your engineering degree prepared you for your job role?**

I first learnt how to code from TUM Asia programming courses. TUM Asia has provided me with a strong foundation on algorithm design and programming logic. This makes learning other programming languages much easier. It is all about the self-discipline and motivation to learn something new to keep up with the new tools and pick up more programming languages so that we can find the best way to resolve any issue.

Apart from these technical skills, the soft skill courses taught in school such as critical thinking and project management are useful at work too. At work, we are bound to encounter issues and this is when critical thinking plays an important part. We have to analyse the issue, infer the root cause and reflect on it.

**“We turn concepts and requirements into actual features in the vehicles. It is extremely rewarding when you see the features that you implemented on the actual products out in the market.”**

Lim Wei Ting

**How have you been upgrading your skills since you graduated?**

I agree that constant upgrade is important to expand our skillset to adapt to the changing environment, especially in Singapore when our current knowledge gets obsolete very quickly in the fast changing society. In Continental, they provided both in-house and external training courses.

For instance, I recently attended the Yokoten workshop which taught us the use of horizontal transfer of knowledge and how it can be implemented to ensure that information and lessons learnt can be shared across the organization. Together, we can minimise the reoccurrence of similar issues and improve existing process, building the capability of the company. Most importantly, we get to learn and grow together. I intend to participate more of such workshops to improve my skills.

**How has the training provided by your company impacted your career progression?**

Recently, I had a lateral move to a requirement engineering role and I had the opportunity to visit Continental Germany for a one week ramp-up workshop as well as an idea sharing session to improve our current system for future projects. It was a great opportunity to meet my German colleagues and experience the working life there.

This role also involves more communication with customers



**“Apart from these technical skills, the soft skill courses taught in school such as critical thinking and project management are useful at work too. At work, we are bound to encounter issues and this is when critical thinking plays an important part.”**

Lim Wei Ting

and application developers. I hope that with the new knowledge I have gained combined with practice, I can be a better requirement engineer.

**Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?**

I see myself in a leadership position guiding the junior engineers in the company, sharing my experience and imparting my knowledge to them. •



# Emerging Trends & Developments In Aerospace



**O**n the 5th of April, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and TUM Asia jointly organised the first Speaker Series Session of the year. This session aimed to bring awareness to the public on the upcoming trends and challenges in the Aerospace industry. The session brought together students and working individuals, who were able to hear from experienced academics and researchers. They were able to offer insights on how emerging economies will accelerate changes in the value chain. Overall, it was a very insightful session and it helped to provide greater awareness of the new opportunities and risks at play in today's marketplace. •

## On The Cover Photos:

Lim Wei Ting, Playground Pictures, TUM Asia

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