

# Verbinden

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

FALL 2017 // 05



## Content

- 03 What Does It Take To Be An Entrepreneur?
- 04 Having A "Go Attitude"
- 06 A Taste Of Bavaria
- 08 Balancing It All
- 10 Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Class of 2017!

---

## Director's Message



**W**ith a growing alumni network, TUM Asia aims to build a supportive and vibrant environment for our graduates. This issue aims to highlight the opportunities where our graduates could gather for both professional and social interactions.

We held several alumni events this year, such as a talk which showed alumni the power of entrepreneurship. It was very enlightening to hear the experiences of our alumni who have embarked on their own business adventures.

The Verbinden team was also able to catch up with two alumni and learn how they were

able to cope with different situations in their lives, such as balancing work with family and maintaining a positive attitude in the workplace.

We were very happy to witness the 14th cohort of students graduating from TUM Asia. It is always a proud and fulfilling moment to celebrate the special milestone with our students.

With that, I hope that you will enjoy this issue. Stay tuned to our next issue in Spring 2018.

**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?language=en](http://www.db.alumni.tum.de/jobs?language=en)



### 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

---

# What Does It Take To Be An Entrepreneur?



**W**ith the growth of entrepreneurship in Asia, particularly in the globalised cities and countries such as Singapore, TUM Asia had the opportunity to address this trend together with our alumni. Our parent university, Technical University of Munich (TUM), also known as The Entrepreneurial University, fosters a supportive environment for start-ups and provides advice for budding entrepreneurs.

Here at TUM's campus in Singapore, the TUM Asia Alumni Network decided to provide a platform to encourage innovation, while providing insights on areas to consider when establishing your own start-up company. With this as the goal, TUM held an entrepreneurship talk at Life.SREDA on 26 May 2017.

One of the speakers was Chirag Tejuja, co-founder of Tabsquare, a Singapore-based technology business specializing in mobile ordering and customer engagement for the food and beverage industry. Chirag completed his Master of Science in Industrial Chemistry in 2005 and spent over 6 years working in Asia and Europe with BASF, the world's largest chemical company. He then decided to pursue a MBA at INSEAD in France and Singapore. Together with two other INSEAD graduates, Tabsquare was started in 2012 to revolutionise the way restaurants interact and engage with their customers. TabSquare has since evolved into a million-dollar business, with a presence in Singapore, Indonesia, Japan and India, serving over 60 brands across 200 outlets, including leading restaurant chains such as the Paradise Group and Japan Food Holdings. As a former global business manager in specialty chemicals and now, an entrepreneur in the F&B industry, Chirag shared valuable advice with fellow alumni on how startups can further the business beyond a local setting.

Participants were also able to hear from Stanley Chew, who is a Chemical Engineer by training, however he is also a business owner in a different field of Engineering. Stanley's company, Experience Ace, aims to educate students and the public in coding, tinkering and designing. Experience Ace was set up by Stanley and his friends during their polytechnic days. Stanley is a young entrepreneur who has managed to achieve a special balance of studies, managing a company and also leisure time. Furthermore, his business is in a field of Engineering quite different from what he studied. This unique mix of qualities gives Stanley a perspective on business that few young business owners possess and he shared his experience with fellow alumni. It was an insightful session!



Photos: TUM Asia

---

# Having A “Go Attitude”

## Darren Yeo

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & Information Technology, Class of 2015  
Sales Engineer, Light Industrial, Vertiv Singapore



Photo: Darren Yeo (third from right), together with his Bachelor of Science classmates

**Work can be demanding and it is not always fun, but having a positive attitude in the workplace can help you create a conducive business environment in the engineering industry. The Verbinden team catches up with one of our alumni, who shared his perspective on maintaining a positive outlook in his Engineering career.**

### Hi Darren, tell our readers more about yourself.

Hello! I graduated from the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering & information Technology programme back in 2015. I am currently working at Vertiv (Singapore) as a Sales Engineer in Light Industrial.

### What inspired you to pursue higher studies?

In my career and life, I put learning and personal development as my main focus, which allows me to navigate through paths that are different from what others may take. One important goal that I have set for myself is to strive to learn as much as possible

and reach my maximum potential in the shortest period of time.

### How has your education helped you to grow as a person?

As the saying goes, knowledge is gold. I really enjoyed the lessons taught by my professors and I learned a lot from their sharing. However, the highlight of my education was the opportunity to complete my Bachelor thesis at TUM's campus in Munich, Germany. I was able to complete my thesis on a topic that I have always been particularly interested in, which was about clean energy. In addition, studying at TUM Asia is not just about studying; it goes beyond that. We had

many eye-opening experiences by living in a different country and also through cultural interactions. Even till today, these fond memories are experiences that I treasure and bring with me whenever I travel to new places.

### Tell us more about your job responsibilities in a highly specialized engineering role?

My daily activities at work include providing optimized solutions to the customers through consulting and advising them. My company is a solution provider for critical infrastructure in thermal, power and monitoring for data centers, both in



problem can be solved if we have the basics as our foundation. His advice has encouraged me to work on my analytical skills and make me look deeper at the challenging situations that I face. This is a useful approach because as engineers, it is always useful to look beyond the surface, and that is when we are able to think out of the box and propose solutions because we have a strong understanding of the basics and the work that we do. To add on, a team of students from TUM made international headlines with their success with the Hyperloop. It shows a lot about how special it is to have studied engineering from the experts in Germany.

**“I believe that this aspect is also applicable to other engineering roles as one would also be required to understand the needs of the clients or industry that they are providing their solutions to.”**

Darren Yeo

the commercial and industrial sectors. This requires me to understand what their company does and what solutions we can offer to help them to optimize their business. I believe that this aspect is also applicable to other engineering roles as one would also be required to understand the needs of the clients or industry that they are providing their solutions to.

**Are there benefits to be skilled in ‘German Engineering’ in the engineering industry in Singapore?**

There are definitely benefits and advantages to ‘German Engineering’. You can try asking anyone about Germany and they will agree with you that the country is well-regarded for their expertise in engineering and technology. During my studies, one of my German professors told me something that stood out to me in terms of how they thought when they approached problems. He mentioned that we should always tackle the situation by identifying the problem from the roots. Each

**“As engineers, it is always useful to look beyond the surface, and that is when we are able to think out of the box and propose solutions because we have a strong understanding of the basics and the work that we do.”**

Darren Yeo

**Now that you are a successful working professional, how can your juniors be prepared for the future challenges that they might face in the workforce?**

I would like to share the following acronym, “GLOW”! The ‘G’ stands for “Go Attitude”, which represents action, where you plan your move and act on it. The ‘L’ stands for “Learning”, which to me meant placing learning and growth as the most important priority in life. The ‘O’ stands for “Open Up”, which represents being open-minded and keen to face new challenges. The ‘W’ stands for “Win”, where one should be prepared with the mentality to

overcome the new challenges and win. I would encourage my juniors to remember the themes in “GLOW” and to continue to strive for greater achievements with a positive mindset.

**How do you see yourself making an impact to the engineering community in the near future?**

As Singapore is working towards becoming a Smart Nation, I am extremely excited that my engineering career is one that will be involved to help transform Singapore. I am looking forward to contributing to critical infrastructure aspects, such as by supporting various organizations in their power systems. Such efforts are not done single handedly, but involves the contributions of many different talented and skilled individuals from various industries, coupled with the support of the Singapore government.



Photos: Darren Yeo

---

## A Taste Of Bavaria



In a tiny country like Singapore, it is an interesting fact that this multi-cultural country also celebrates international festivals and holidays. Oktoberfest, the world's biggest beer festival, has been gaining popularity in Singapore over the years. This is particularly significant for many of our TUM Asia students and alumni, who have heard so much about the culture in Germany through their professors and teaching assistants.

This year's TUM Asia Oktoberfest was held on 15 September 2017 at a Bavarian themed restaurant. The event was attended by faculty, alumni and students from both TUM Asia and TUM. Everyone was able to enjoy a selection of authentic Bavarian food and beer. Some students were also able to meet alumni from several other cohorts. Likewise, several faculty members were able to reconnect with their students. Overall, it was an enjoyable night and everyone had a great time. Till the next time, Prost!



Photos: TUM Asia

---

# Balancing It All

## Judy Yang

Master of Science in Industrial Chemistry, Class of 2013  
Manager (Network Support), Wacker Chemicals South East Asia



Photo: Judy Yang (middle front), together with her colleagues

**Upon graduation, most TUM Asia students choose to step into the working world. There are various challenges involved as they attempt to find a balance between work and family life. We speak to one of our alumni on how she copes with having a full-time job while being a parent to two young kids.**

### Hi Judy, what inspired you to pursue a Master of Science Degree abroad?

I come from a small town in Guangxi, China. I studied my Bachelors in Chemical Engineering. I had a keen interest to expand my network and live in a city environment. This led me to pursue my Masters in Industrial Chemistry at TUM Asia back in 2011. My biggest motivation to further my education was to prepare for graduate studies at the doctoral level. However, I later realized that research was not what I ultimately wanted to do and I am glad that I had the opportunity to discover where my passion was during my Master studies in Singapore.

### How has life been for you after graduating?

I have been working with Wacker Chemicals South Asia since graduating in 2013. Initially, I was working in a more technical engineering job scope. However, as time passed, I found that I really enjoyed meeting people and working on the corporate aspect of work. I am thankful for the range of technical and business modules in my Masters degree, which has given me the opportunity to be able to try different types of scopes, from engineering to marketing and now to distribution management. It has been a great experience been able to grow within the company. On a more personal

level, I am a mother of two young kids and I enjoy spending time with them outside of work.

### Looking back, what is one special memory from studying at TUM Asia?

Reminiscing those days, I really enjoyed the globalized environment. My classmates came from countries such as Argentina, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, and Turkey. It was great to be able to meet classmates from different cultural backgrounds and I really cherish the friendships that have developed since our studies. I am reminded of how their perspectives had a positive influence to my thought process and my outlook on life.

**How did you come across the opportunity to work with your current company?**

I was first introduced to Wacker Chemicals from Professor Plank, who taught our construction chemistry class. I was very intrigued by his lessons and the aspect of chemistry that he taught. He helped to link me up with Wacker Chemicals and recommended me for an internship position with them. He helped to open the door to my career and I am really grateful to have encountered caring professors like him.

**Can you share with us more on your day-to-day responsibilities at work?**

In my current role, I am working as a service partner for the business teams of Biosolutions, Polymers and Silicones divisions. I am supporting them to implement their channel strategies. As a process owner, I also coordinate all activities concerning the distributors. This could involve announcing the distributors or cancelling the distribution agreements, working on reporting, contracts, assessments, and so on.

**What were some challenges that you faced at work and how did you overcome them?**

I think my biggest challenge was having to balance different aspects of my life, such as work and family duties. It can be difficult managing a full-time job while being a mom. Whenever I do not have to travel for work, I try to spend as much time as I can with my young kids. I would also have to try to coordinate with my husband when we travel for work, so that we can ensure that there is at least one parent at home. It can be tough but I believe that my husband and I have been able to manage it well.

**As a successful working professional, what is one advice you would give to your juniors who are graduating?**

One saying that stuck out to me during my own journey was to “Believe in yourself and do not give up”. Even if you may not have the highest grades in class, do not be discouraged as it does not mean that you will not be successful later on in life. No one else should define who you are and what



you can be. You are the only one with the power to determine what kind of person you will become. Press on and do not give up on your dreams!

**On top of work, you are also the President of the TUM Asia Alumni Network. What is your secret to managing your time?**

We have a great team! Most of the committee members are quite active in taking part in the alumni events. We also have great support from the TUM Asia staff. We would not be where we are today without their help and I appreciate their efforts in the alumni events.

**“No one else should define who you are and what you can be. You are the only one with the power to determine what kind of person you will become. Press on and do not give up on your dreams!”**

Judy Yang



Photos: Judy Yang, TUM Asia

---

## Herzlichen Glückwunsch, Class of 2017!



**J**uly each year marks a significant milestone for many of our TUM Asia students as they celebrate the completion of their studies with fellow classmates, friends and family. We constantly encourage our students to extend their learning and personal advancement beyond the everyday student life, and this is no different as they go out to the working world. “Having a degree is never the end of a true education. In order to stay competitive and keep up with the world as it continually evolves, as engineers, you will need to continue to develop your skills and eventually become the engineers that innovate the future,” said Dr. Markus Waechter, who shared some encouraging words of advice to the graduating students.

As the students prepares to move on to the next phase of life, they reflected on their main takeaways from their studies here in TUM Asia. Chen Yu Lin, Valedictorian, shared some of the challenges he faced. “The most challenging part was the searching process during my Master Thesis and internship. We overcame that and left for different universities, companies and even countries. The Master Thesis summed up our education perfectly by linking our theoretical knowledge to the reality in the industries. It also exposed us to the real business world and taught us about independence”, said Yu Lin.

Upon graduation, students part ways to pursue their individual goals and aspirations. There will inevitably be more complex challenges and greater responsibilities to take on in future. Chen Jun Guang, Valedictorian, encouraged his cohort to pursue their passion and be unafraid of adversities. “One thing is for sure, the skills that we have been imparted upon; the ability to think analytically and critically will stay with us. We can now face complex issues, better understand the real problems, ask the critical questions, and uncover new possibilities to forge novel solutions. No matter where our paths take us, we will be able to achieve great things. Do what you love, because, at the end of the day, you are the author of your own journey.”



Photos: Israel Tan Photography



**On The Cover Photos:**

Darren Yeo, Israel Tan Photography, Judy Yang, TUM Asia

This newsletter is published by:

**Office of Corporate Communications  
Technical University of Munich Asia (TUM Asia)**

SIT@SP Building  
510 Dover Road #05-01  
Singapore 139660

**Tel:** +65 6777 7407

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

**Website:** [www.tum-asia.edu.sg](http://www.tum-asia.edu.sg)

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

CPE Registration No. 200105229R (13/06/2017 - 12/06/2023)  
German Institute of Science & Technology – TUM Asia Pte Ltd