

INCREASING AVIATION AWARENESS AMONG SINGAPORE'S YOUTH



The revamped Air Scouts programme will equip students with a better understanding of Singapore's aviation industry. (From left to right: Mr Mah Wee Beng, Deputy Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Professor Leo Tan, Acting President of the Singapore Scout Association and Co-Chairman of the Advisory Board, Mr Tay Tiang Guan, Deputy Director-General of CAAS and Co-Chairman of the Advisory Board, Mr Tan Cheng Kiong, Chief Commissioner of the SSA, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Transport and Mr Yap Ong Heng, Director-General, CAAS.)

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and the Singapore Scout Association (SSA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the Youth Aviation Advisory Board (YAAB) in early-December. This was done to expand collaboration in promoting awareness and interest in aviation among Singapore's youth as well as Air Scout co-curricular activities especially in primary and secondary schools.

The revamped Air Scouts initiative will integrate various unique elements to equip students with a better understanding of Singapore's aviation industry. It also gives youths opportunities to gain practical experience by interacting with professionals in the aviation industry.

The programme explores eight core domains, including: principles of flight; aerospace operations; meteorology; aero engine; practical skills; navigation; air traffic control and communications; and flight safety and airmanship.

At the official launch of the programme, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Singapore's Minister for Transport, said, "The programme will give students a chance to engage with industry professionals, understand the contribution they make and the integral and dynamic roles they play." Addressing the Air Scouts at the launch ceremony, the Minister added, "It is up to you, the youths of today to write the next chapter of Singapore's aviation story."

SSA has been active in growing Singaporean youth's awareness of aviation. The movement has established aviation clubs or Air Scout units, within schools that offer members activities such as flight experiences, aeromodelling and aeroplane spotting to name a few. The clubs also provide full-fledged aviation programmes with customised training methodologies and progression tracks.

Another SSA pilot project under the Air Scouts programme which was supported by CAAS through its Aviation Youth Outreach Fund was the 'Young Aviators Badge' course. It introduces young students to Singapore aviation, its history and achievements as well as basic aviation and aerodynamic principles. The fund is aimed at supporting and enabling like-minded partners in conducting events, programmes and activities aimed at raising the interest of the young in aviation.

To date, CAAS has reached out to over 16,000 youths through various outreach schemes, including the Aviation Learning Journeys, Aviation Open House, Youth Aviation Ambassador programme, and the We are Aviators Facebook page.