



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **MENDAKI'S FIRST CORPORATE MENTORING PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY MSD TO MENTOR YOUTH FROM ITE**

*Up to 100 diverse members across MSD will engage ITE students  
to be ready for employment, understand roles and responsibilities, meet hiring  
requirements and other skillsets*

*120 first-year ITE students are expected to benefit  
from this new corporate mentoring partnership in 2023*

**Friday, 3 February 2023** – Yayasan MENDAKI ("MENDAKI"), in partnership with global biopharmaceutical company MSD Pharma (Singapore) ("MSD") announced an inaugural corporate mentoring partnership to mentor youth as part of MENDAKI's #amPowered@ITE programme. Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Manpower, and Deputy Chairman of MENDAKI, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour.

The new corporate mentoring partnership aims to help youth who are under the #amPowered@ITE programme acquire life skills for employment, build self-confidence, networking and connecting youth to opportunities to grow their potential. As part of this partnership, up to 100 dedicated professionals from MSD, comprising data scientists, cyber-security as well as A.I. and U.X. (user experience) experts, marketing specialists, clinical trial researchers, manufacturing professionals, engineers, etc, will work closely with MENDAKI across a 9-month period. This new corporate mentoring partnership will prepare youth to be ready for future employment, understand roles and responsibilities, meet hiring requirements, and other skillsets for jobs of the future.

In addition, youth will be mentored by MSD volunteers on how to better prepare for employment, by exposing them to the different roles and opportunities in the biopharmaceutical industry and understanding current and future hiring challenges. The youth will also be introduced to real-world applications such as 3D printing and cyber security, get the opportunity to attend competency workshops, team-bonding activities, soft-skills workshops, sharing sessions and be matched to mentors who will guide them in goal setting and motivate them to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations.

This new corporate mentoring partnership is expected to benefit 120 first-year ITE students in 2023 with plans to expand to more students with the support from more corporate partners.

"I am heartened that MSD has stepped forward to partner MENDAKI to uplift our students through this first-of-its-kind corporate mentoring partnership. Through this collaboration, we can share resources and co-create experiences to equip our youth to be future-ready and ensure that no one is left behind," said Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Deputy Chairman of Yayasan MENDAKI. He added: "The needs and aspirations of the community has changed and students at every level treasure the opportunities to grow and realise their potential. Thus, we at MENDAKI want to be an integral part of their growth process and work with them to achieve their aspirations."

"As one of the largest biopharmaceutical employers in Singapore, we are thrilled to partner with MENDAKI to showcase the varied opportunities in our company and the biopharmaceutical industry at large. This new MENDAKI - MSD corporate mentoring partnership for ITE youth signifies our strong commitment to supporting the next generation in building the skills needed for future success and ensuring workforce readiness for the Singapore population," said Ms Lu-Ching Lau, Director, External Affairs, Policy & Communications, MSD Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

## **ABOUT MSD**

At MSD, known as Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA in the United States and Canada, we are unified around our purpose: We use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than 130 years, we have brought hope to humanity through the development of important medicines and vaccines. We aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world – and today, we are at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions that advance the prevention and treatment of diseases in people and animals. We foster a diverse and inclusive global workforce and operate responsibly every day to enable a safe, sustainable and healthy future for all people and communities.

MSD has unique entities in Singapore that bring together all of MSD's business divisions, encompassing Manufacturing, Research & Development (R&D), Human Health, Animal Health, our Singapore Technology Center, and Asia Pacific regional headquarters. For more information, visit [www.msd.com](http://www.msd.com) and <http://www.msd-singapore.com>; and connect with us on Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

## **ABOUT YAYASAN MENDAKI (MENDAKI)**

Formed on 10 October 1982, MENDAKI (Council for the Development of Singapore Malay/Muslim Community) is a pioneer Self-Help Group in Singapore. Its programmes assist students and individuals with education and training, helping to uplift the Malay/Muslim community's educational performance and develop its resilience and adaptability. MENDAKI also charts its strategic directions based on three pillars — School Ready, Perform in School and Future Ready.