

MEDIA RELEASE

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**STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE GARNERS PARTICIPATION
FROM TECH GIANTS APPLE, GOOGLE AND MICROSOFT**

Singapore, Mar 8 2013 –

UWC South East Asia, East Campus (UWCSEA East) students are hosting the 24-hour TechLIFE conference on 8–9 March in Singapore.

A highlight of the conference will be a 30-minute live Skype video call with Apple Co-founder, Steve Wozniak. Equipped with the nerves of 13-year olds, the student organisers originally invited Wozniak to speak at the conference in-person. While his schedule and their budget didn't allow for the trip, Wozniak, a keen supporter of education and youth in technology, graciously agreed to speak with participants via Skype.

Microsoft, another great champion for the use of technology in education, applauds UWCSEA students for taking the lead to organise this 24-hour technology conference. Saw Ken Wye, VP Asia Public Sector Asia said, "It is heartening to see the passion for IT amongst the students who are prepared to stay up through the night for their knowledge quest. This reaffirms our belief that in the 21st century, learning happens anytime, anywhere. We are very pleased to be part of this movement and we look forward to more of such opportunities to motivate our students to make the most out of technology in education."

TechLIFE is a 24-hour technology conference for 11 to 18 year old students who are passionate about technology and want to learn more about it and expand their skills. The conference runs overnight from 6pm on Friday, 8 March to 6pm on Saturday, 9 March. Activities will run continuously (Wozniak's session will be held at 2am local time) and participants can sleep at school as needed.

The action-packed 24 hours will include a plenary session led by Google, student-led workshops, 'guru' workshops led by technology experts Microsoft, Apple, Saturday Kids, StratAgile and Playware Studios Asia, a geocaching activity, field trips to Marina Barrage and the Singapore Science Centre and a third one run by 3D Classworks.

In addition to the hands-on learning activities, participants will enjoy entertainment including a performance by up-and-coming musician Chris Jones of These Brittle Bones fame and get to play with Microsoft's latest Xbox Kinect.

Inspired by the 'Stucon' conference they attended in Hong Kong in 2012, **UWCSEA East Grade 8 students Victoria Ivory Birrell, Marius Smits and Michelle Tay decided to plan a technology conference of their own that would be 'for students, by students.'** Joined by three Grade 6 students, a Grade 11 student-mentor and UWCSEA's Centre for International Education staff, they formed a planning team and oversaw all aspects of the conference planning and preparations.

In anticipation of the conference, Birrell said that she hopes the participants "will apply the skills they learn and enjoy themselves." She has also learned from the opportunity to plan a conference. "We've realised how much commitment it takes to plan a conference as well as how much thought needs to go into it – from designing a logo to planning the schedule to recruiting participants."

Caroline Meek, Director of UWCSEA's Centre for International Education has been impressed by the students' commitment. "I'm blown away by what the students have been able to achieve through their drive and passion. They have made TechLIFE their own and are very keen to share it with other students and to make it the best possible experience for their peers."

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Facts about TechLIFE 2013

Conference participants will include

- **7 student and 3 adult organisers** from UWCSEA
- **88 students** from 11 to 18 years of age, representing seven different international schools across Singapore
- **17 adult coaches**

'Gurus' leading conference sessions/workshops include

- Nicola Choo, Professional Development Consultant, **Apple**
- Rob Newberry, Teacher and Gamer, **Chatsworth International School**
- Julian Persaud, Managing Director, **Google**
- Doug Farber, Managing Director, **Google**
- Siddharth Jain, Chief Creative Director, **Playware Studios Asia**
- Akshay Maliwal, Head - Strategy, **Playware Studios Asia**
- Mike Ferrer, Community Manager, **Playware Studios Asia**
- Edwin Teo, Changemaker, **Saturday Kids**
- Avish Joseph, Entrepreneur and CEO, **StratAgile**
- Chris Jones, Musician, **Tanglin Trust School**
- Jabiz Raisdana, Teacher and Storyteller, **UWCSEA East**

Conference schedule and further details are available on the [TechLIFE website](#).

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