



ECHOES

NOV 2024

NEWSLETTER



BEYOND BORDERS

Embark on global adventures with our classmates studying at top universities worldwide, expanding their perspectives and building strong networks.

COMPANY VISITS

From Vopak Gas Terminal to Microsoft Office and visit to the Sustainable Singapore Gallery, see how real-world experiences unfold in our own backyard.

AND MORE...

HELLO FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM!

Welcome to the November issue of the **ECHOES** newsletter!

Our November issue explores the adventures our peers have had in their semester abroad, sharing their experience and learnings. In Singapore, we've also explored local companies with visits to the Microsoft Office, Vopak Gas Terminal, and the Sustainable Singapore Gallery.


In this issue, read up on:

- **Beyond Borders**
This semester, our classmates are in study stints at top universities worldwide—including Keio, USC, Yale, Fudan, Cornell, Duke, London Business School, Tsinghua, Rotman, Columbia, and HKUST. A representative of the admissions team at Yale SOM also shared insights on The NUS MBA – Yale MAM Double Degree Program experience with some of us during her visit to NUS!
- **Deepavali Celebration**
The CSC Club's festive Deepavali gathering lit up campus life. From vibrant henna designs and diya painting to a lively dance party, the event united the MBA community in celebrating the Festival of Lights—an unforgettable evening of culture, camaraderie, and fun.
- **Insights from Company Visits**
Energy Club, SEI Club, Technology Club and D&I Club offered diverse experiential learning opportunities through company visits to showcase the city's dynamic blend of industrial innovation, environmental stewardship, and inclusive workplaces.

Warm Regards,
MBA Newsletter Team

BEYOND BORDERS: STUDENTS ON SEMESTER EXCHANGE FALL 2024

by Tan Cui Fen Sandra (Sandra Tan)

 Connect with these students on Zoom during Exchange Connect on 15 and 17 January to explore and learn more about the schools. More details coming soon!

Keio University, Japan



“My fall exchange at Keio Business School was an enriching experience that expanded both my academic and cultural horizons. The program offered a unique blend of rigorous coursework and real-world exposure to Japan’s dynamic business environment. One highlight was the course “Production Management in Japan”, which included on-site factory visits to explore the deeply rooted “kaizen” mindset in Japanese culture. Another standout course, “Business Logistics”, provided insights into the evolution of Japanese marketing, emphasizing the cultural influences shaping its past, present, and future.

Engaging with diverse classmates from around the world further broadened my global perspective, and the friendships and connections I made have been invaluable. After class, we often gather at nearby soba restaurants, tempura take-out stalls, or izakayas to unwind and enjoy local cuisine. I highly recommend this programme to future students seeking both personal and professional growth, especially those eager to step outside their comfort zone and build friendships across cultures!”

– Lisa Koh

University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business, US



“USC is such a beautiful campus, and I will still choose USC again if I have the chance to travel and study! MBA without a Semester Exchange (or at least 1 week+ exchange) experience is NOT a complete MBA journey! I do urge and recommend PT MBAs to take time to go for semester exchange overseas and enjoy the MBA experience in the States.”

– Winn Mar Saw

Yale University, US



“I am very satisfied with my exchange experience at Yale SOM. Life in New Haven, academics at Yale SOM, and the networking environment all exceeded my expectations. Yale SOM is well-regarded for its courses on soft skills, and you will have the opportunity to take classes from professors who have spoken at TED Talks. Yale’s soft skills courses often require you to step out of your comfort zone with a “High challenge, High support” spirit. Through these experiences, I had more opportunities to reflect on myself and ultimately discovered what I want to pursue in the future. Above all, studying at Yale SOM allowed me to compare it with the NUS MBA (and other Asian MBAs), helping me to rediscover and appreciate the strengths of NUS.”

– Kyohei Ohashi



Cornell University, US

“Our Exchange semester at Cornell University has been an invaluable part of the overall MBA journey, offering a culturally enriching experience within one of the most famous American school. Being part of Cornell's beautiful, historic Ithaca campus—despite its remote location—adds a unique charm to the programme. The academic rigor here is comparable to NUS, while the exposure to an even more diverse peer group, many of whom are highly focused on consulting and investment banking, has been really valuable. Witnessing the intensity of the recruiting efforts has also shown the school's strong industry ties—an interesting insight into the American MBA experience.”

– Davide Marino

Fudan University, China



“I believe that Fudan University's IMBA is the most dynamic MBA community in China. The students with diverse backgrounds here are passionate and think creatively. I have gained a lot from interacting with them. During the orientation, I met and integrated with the MBA cohort through the "Buddy Program". Fudan's IMBA also organizes a wide range of extracurricular activities, such as corporate visits and cultural and sports events.

Studying as an exchange student at Fudan has truly been an incredible experience. Additionally, the new campus of Fudan University School of Management recently opened. This new building, which took 10 years to construct, reflects Fudan's ambition to establish a world-class business school. I sincerely hope that more NUS students will come to Fudan for an exchange experience.”

– Jonas Yang Shengjie

London Business School, UK (MBA and MIF)



“This exchange programme has been a valuable experience for me. It allows me to complement my NUS MBA with an MBA experience at a top European business school. The academic offerings are extensive, and the cohort is exceptional. Beyond the engaging classroom experience, being located near the heart of Europe provides many opportunities to travel. You’ll be able to explore nearby countries, making the exchange experience even more memorable. The UK itself has incredible cities to discover, like Edinburgh and London. Overall, this exchange has been one of the most memorable experiences of my MBA journey.”

– **Mohammad Faisal Rizki**

Duke University, US



“We arrived at Durham, the college town that surrounds Duke university in early September. The weather was pleasant, the exchange onboarding program was conducted smoothly and all the participants of the programme were excited to mingle with each other. Classes and school activities played a central role in defining our experience at a prestigious school that really gives students a peek into the American College experience. I'm glad to have volunteered for this programme since it adds a new wrinkle to MBA experience and has helped me create memories that I will cherish forever.”

– **Harsha Bhat**

Tsinghua University, China



“Life on campus is extremely convenient - you have everything you need right here without needing to leave. The campus is massive with 9 libraries and 26 student cafeterias, various gyms, supermarkets and convenient stores... it is like a mini city on its own.”

“The past 2 months at Tsinghua have been an enriching blend of academic learning and cultural immersion - both inside and outside the classroom. The courses here are more specialised and many are primarily lecture-driven, especially finance courses, complemented by various case examples. The added rigour and depth has enabled me to better grasp the concepts and connect them with my own professional experience, making the material feel particularly relevant and insightful.

For anything extra, it is only a tap away via the various delivery or e-commerce platforms. I will definitely miss having my morning flat white delivered in <20 minutes, with no delivery charges. Adjusting to cultural differences - like classroom interactions, working with students of multiple nationalities, and getting used to life in Beijing have been both challenging and rewarding. This experience has broadened my perspectives and pushed me to truly embrace the differences, deepening the personal growth I am gaining from my MBA journey.”

– Erica Teh

University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, US



“The MBA exchange program at the Rotman School of Management, provided me with a transformative experience that combined academic learning with practical application. Beyond the classroom, I had the privilege of participating in an independent learning project called "Intersection with AI." In collaboration with Canada Post, our team developed an AI tool designed to optimize inventory management during peak seasons through predictive modeling and real-time data integration. This project not only deepened my understanding of AI applications in logistics but also enhanced my problem-solving and project management skills.

This exchange experience further broadened my perspective through networking events with industry leaders, cultural activities, and exploring Canada's vibrant and diverse city life. I gained valuable insights into North American business practices while building meaningful connections with peers from around the world.

I strongly recommend future exchange students to join the Rotman School of Management. It is a place where innovation meets global perspectives, offering a truly inspiring and enriching learning environment.”

– Maggie Xu Manlu

Columbia University, US

“One month into my exchange semester at Columbia University, I've not only gotten the chance to study and access the resources at another top B-school, but also the opportunity to explore the city of New York and living in a different environment. I believe this would be a memorable experience and a valuable experience for my future career too.”

– Jade Bich Ngoc Khuong



Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Hong Kong



“The exchange project at the HKUST was a valuable experience in my life, and it will undoubtedly have a positive impact on my future career development. HKUST provides me with an ideal learning environment with its excellent academic atmosphere and beautiful campus environment.

As an international financial center, Hong Kong’s strong financial atmosphere left a deep impression on me. Here, I was fortunate enough to meet some like-minded friends, whose passion and expertise in the financial industry benefited me a lot. We discussed the dynamics of the financial market together and shared learning experiences. These exchanges not only broadened my horizons, but also deepened my understanding of the financial field.”

– Eron Li Yu

EXPLORE ENERGY: VOPAK GAS PLANT VISIT

by Khaled Bekair and Shreshth Srivastava



On November 5th, 2024, members of the NUS MBA had the privilege of visiting the Vopak Banyan Terminal in Singapore, organized by NUS Energy Club. The group of 12, guided by NUS alumnus Neeraj Kumar, experienced firsthand insights into one of the most critical hubs for fuel storage and logistics in the region, explored the ship jetty, where vessels dock for loading and unloading operations, and learned about the meticulous processes involved in ensuring efficiency and safety in fuel transfers.

The visit offered a comprehensive overview of terminal infrastructure and safety measures. The highlight was an up-close look at large ammonia and hydrogen storage tanks, showcasing Vopak's capability in handling fuels critical to the energy transition.

Beyond the operational aspects, the team was briefed on Singapore's evolving gas landscape. Discussions shed light on current policies and future directions, particularly how Singapore is aligning with global trends in energy diversification and sustainability.

The visit was a testament to Vopak's pivotal role in enabling the storage and distribution of key energy resources while maintaining stringent safety standards. It also underscored the growing significance of alternative fuels like hydrogen and ammonia in the push towards a greener energy future.

For the Energy Club, the experience was not only educational but also an inspiring reminder of the complexities and innovations driving the energy sector today.

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS: YALE MASTER OF ADVANCED MANAGEMENT (MAM) PROGRAM

by Vanessa Lee

On 13 November, NUS MBA students gathered at the MBA Lounge for an engaging in-person info session on the Yale Master of Advanced Management (MAM) program. Evelyn Wilson, Senior Associate Director of Admissions for Management Master's Programs at Yale School of Management (SOM), shared valuable insights into the MAM program and the enriching one-year experience at Yale.

The session drew great interest from students eager to learn about this prestigious double-degree opportunity between NUS MBA and Yale SOM. A lively Q&A session followed, where Evelyn addressed a range of questions—from academic highlights to life in New Haven—leaving participants inspired and well-informed about this global pathway.



It was an afternoon filled with discovery and inspiration, strengthening the partnership between NUS and Yale SOM while opening doors to exciting international opportunities for our MBA students.

DEEPAVALI CELEBRATION: FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHERED FOR FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)



CSC Club core members slaying the festive vibes in stunning Indian costumes!



Beautiful henna tattoos and even more beautiful smiley faces!



Lighting up the festival of lights with love and cherished memories of the semester at the memory board!



MBA's getting creative and colorful with the diya painting activity!

Thank you, CSC Club, for organizing such an incredible Dipavali celebration! It was a joy for Indians and international friends alike to experience the festival of lights together. ✨ P.S. The dance party after dinner was unforgettable, though sadly, we can't share the videos here.

SUSTAINABLE SINGAPORE GALLERY VISIT

by Peewara Padungsatayawong (Ami)

The visit to the Sustainable Singapore Gallery with the SEI Club on Saturday, 9th November, was truly insightful! We had the privilege of being guided by an expert who walked us through Singapore's inspiring journey of sustainability and resource management.



The experience was incredibly interactive! We smelled how Singapore's rivers used to be before the cleanup, stood inside a water tunnel, and saw the operations of how the barrage works.

Here we are standing on top of the gallery! We were pleasantly surprised to discover a hidden rooftop hangout spot, perfect for flying kites and soaking in the stunning Singapore skyline.



Biking to play the video



Here's our expert guide in white!

EXPLORING DIVERSITY & EQUITY AT MICROSOFT

By Wai Chung Lam

On November 6th, D&I Club hosted their first event of the semester, which was a company visit to Microsoft Office! We got the rare opportunity to visit Microsoft's APAC headquarter office located in the heart of the CBD district. The event started off with a presentation from our own D&I Club, introducing the concept of D&I, as well as the mission of our club. This was then followed up by a presentation from Microsoft themselves.



We had the APAC Chief of staff give us an insightful presentation about the history of D&I at Microsoft, what D&I means to the company, and learnings they have gained from years of doing this.

This was followed up by a wonderful panel discussion with multiple Microsoft panelists talking about their Microsoft work experience answering a ton of questions from our fellow students.



Finally, we got to break off for some networking time, where students got to not only network with the panelists, but also some NUS MBA alumni that work at Microsoft currently! Overall, it was a great event filled with insightful learnings, and most importantly, free coffee and soda!

Future NUS Leader in the Making: Baby Tohgo Isono



Meet Tohgo Isono,
son of Toru Isono
(Intake 2021, Part-time)



♥ Rocking the NUS baby romper with style! Already representing NUS pride from the very start.

♥ Want your little one to show off NUS MBA spirit too? Reach out to us to grab an NUS MBA baby romper for your future star! #FutureMBA #NUSFamily



Baby Romper Giveaway




Perfect for our littlest MBA enthusiast aged 6 to 12 months!

Already redeemed your romper? Submit photograph of your little one(s) in the baby romper by emailing the MBA Programmes Office (mba_programmes@nus.edu.sg), and be featured in the ECHOES Newsletter!

This giveaway is open to all MBAs and MBA Alumni.





HAPPY *Birthday*

November MBAs

**WONG SHANJUN SERENE
LI TAO**

LOH JIA HUI SHARON

TARN RUI SENG WILLIS

CHOW WENG KEONG, BRYAN

XIE QIDA

YAO XIAOMENG

LEUNG KWAN HO

XUE YAO

WULAN TUOYA

LEI NING

SUSANTI

KHUONG BICH NGOC

DAIJI NAKAMURA

TAN XI

SOURAV NANDI

AAKASH KHADKE

ABHISHEK MEHTA

ZHOU XIONG

ADELINE PANG

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NIGEL KOH ZHER KAI

REEBA MIRIAM VARGHESE

XUETING KUANG

KOJI NAKANO

ZHANG ZHAO

KARNAVAT DIVYESH

SANDEEPKUMAR

TING-SO HSU

CHIN KAE CHYUAN

AGARWAL ADITI

JESSICA CHANG XIULAN

MATVEI BONDARENKO

HAN ZIYAN KHEMA

MASATO NIHEI

SHABBAR RAZA

SHOHEI SUGIHARA

SAKSHI SRIVASTAVA

SUWAT LERTKORNKITJA



CODENAMES: PUZZLE!

By Danny Christian

These are various results of modifying our MBA-themed [Codenames](#) game night! We looked at the boards over and over again and decided that when the clues encode the target words in such a binary fashion you can get impressive results.

Engineering	Consulting	Business	Humanities	Entrepreneurship
Dentistry	Marketing	Physics	Computer Science	Venture Capital
Biology	Architecture	Human Resources	Chemistry	Art History
Philosophy	Law	Economics	Geography	Literature
Industrial Design	Management	Finance	Social Science	Music

MBA (9)

Sushi	Great Wall	Merlion	Kimchi	Asia
Eiffel	Laksa	Esplanade	Marina Bay	Island
Panda	Europe	Flyer	Tropics	Grand Canyon
Tiger	Chicken Rice	Lion	Tacos	Pasta
Winter	Taj Mahal	Africa	Eagle	Jewel

Singapore (11)

Russia	Nigeria	Vatican City	India	Philippines
Taiwan	Peru	Thailand	Nauru	Egypt
Mongolia	Ukraine	Jamaica	Indonesia	Israel
Uzbekistan	Malaysia	Germany	South Korea	USA
Saudi Arabia	Sudan	Ghana	Japan	Vietnam

Country of Origins – MBA 25 & 26 (14)

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CONTRIBUTORS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE !!



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Be Part of The NUS MBA ECHOES Newsletter!

Do you have a story idea or a unique perspective to share? We'd love to hear from you! Whether you want to pitch an article feature or contribute content for upcoming events, this is your chance to be part of our vibrant newsletter community.

Simply reach out to Duurenzaya Bukhbat, Chief Editor at duurenzaya@u.nus.edu and Agatha Koh, MBA Programmes Office (Student Life) at agatha@nus.edu.sg to pitch your ideas or submit your articles! Alternatively, keep an eye on your inbox for contribution opportunities—we're always looking for writers and photographers to feature MBA-related events and activities!