Q & A with Tan Mei Hui

Cyber Security

*In this issue, we focus on the burgeoning topic of cyber security. Dr **Tan Mei Hui,** our NGS alumni, is currently working in Cyber Security Group (CSG) at the Government Technology Agency (GovTech), under Government Cyber Defence. She helps the design, implementation, operation and thought leadership of cyber security operations for the Whole of Government (WOG).*

1. Why do you choose this industry?

I enjoy applying my technical knowledge to solve problems and contributing to the overall growth and security of the nation. I am also active in the tech community. I mentor students with IT and cyber security. I am also working with industry partners to raise awareness about cybersecurity and the importance of such knowledge.

2. Could you share the experience about your current work at GovTech?

The work scope depends on the project that the team is involved in, and is very dynamic. For security operations, we have teams that perform security monitoring 24/7. For my role, there are times that I would be on-site on weekends for work, and other times on 'hot' stand-by. We are always on our feet and vigilant about what is happening in the industry. We are always learning about the latest development in technology and need to keep up with the latest cyber news and happenings around the world.

3. What is your opinion on cyber security?

Cybersecurity is one of the core components of national defence, as there is growing importance in protecting our IT infrastructure and data. I am part of the core security team in charge of Singapore's WOG cyber security operations, and I am proud to be able to do my part as a Singaporean to keep the nation safe.

4. Could you share with us the experience in your other jobs prior to joining GovTech?

I was in two of the biggest professional services networks in the world previously before GovTech. I worked on various engagements with diverse clients, ranging from healthcare, property, banking and government agencies. Previously I specialised in governance, compliance and architecture of security operations centre (SOC).

5. How does your NGS experience help with your work in cyber security area?

Cybersecurity is interdisciplinary and requires knowledge from different domains and expertise. I come from an Electrical and Computer Engineering background, and my Ph.D. is in machine learning and computer vision. These areas are not directly linked to IT, but the core technical skills are important in performing tasks such as DevOps, architecture design and system hardening. My role requires familiarity with coding, security design, and architecture.

Soft skills for my current role revolve around working with different groups such as developers, vendors and teams from various agencies and ministries. The role is very much a people-facing one, as we also work with different groups internally. As such, the soft skills that we pick up along the way in school helps greatly with my role.

--- NGS Publicity Team