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# RESEARCH PULSE

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# WELCOME TO RESEARCH PULSE

Hello everyone from Curtin Singapore.

In this issue of Research Pulse, we take the opportunity to highlight our research external engagements. We also like to congratulate and introduce our newly minted PhD graduate from the COPRS program.

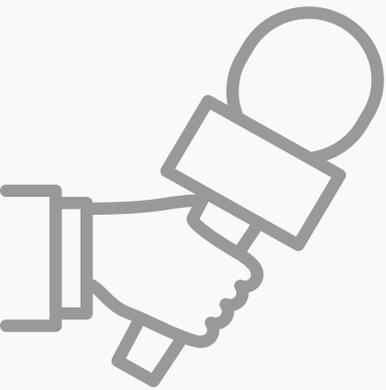
Curtin Singapore has come a long way in developing research in 2022. Although we are a small campus, and in the early stages of developing capability in research, 2022 has been a fruitful year with many research events and publications produced. This was not possible without a dedicated team of academics and professional staff members supporting the development. We will definitely be developing further and become stronger in our research journey with more interesting research initiatives and projects in 2023.

This issue of Research Pulse being a bi-monthly publication will be the last for this year. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the continued success of Research Pulse. We will be back in January 2023.

Enjoy the updates and stay tuned for 2023!

Best Wishes,  
Dr Adrian Tan  
Research Director  
Curtin Singapore

# JOURNEY TO A PHD: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR RONNIE SOH



Curtin Singapore is delighted to have Dr Ronnie Soh, who is our first academic staff member on the Curtin Offshore Postgraduate Research Scholarship (COPRS) program to have graduated with a PhD in September this year. We congratulate him on this endeavour. To promote research capability development among our academic staff members, Curtin University offers the COPRS to allow academic staff members without a PhD to pursue one. We like to take the opportunity to allow Ronnie to share his experience with the PhD program so that future aspirants may be inspired into a PhD journey. In an interview, this is what Ronnie has to share:

## **What was your journey like throughout your PhD candidature?**

As I was doing it part-time, it took me about 6.5 years to complete the PhD program. It has been a very eventful journey. However, it was not smooth sailing throughout. In the initial stage before candidature (milestone 1) there were a lot of uncertainties as I did not know what was a suitable topic for a PhD and the direction that I had to go for my research was unclear to me. I had to read a lot of journal articles related to my field of study. However, after having decided on the topic and area of research with my supervisor, things were a little clearer.

In milestone 2, I started to read and write more intensely to meet the academic requirements of the thesis. Sometimes, I had to rewrite certain paragraphs a few times to express myself clearly and increase the readability of what was written. Collecting the data was a tedious process as there was a lot of data that needed to be manually collected.

In milestone 3, I had to figure out the appropriate research method to analyse the data collected. As it was a quantitative method, some of the concepts involved in analysing the data were extremely complex. The challenge is to make it simpler when writing the thesis to show your level of understanding.

Light at the end of the tunnel was clearer after the submission to the external examiners and the receipt of the review from the examiners. There was not much editing to do, and I was able to accommodate all the comments or justify the changes.

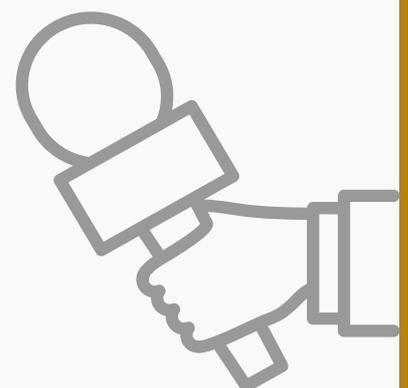
# **JOURNEY TO A PHD: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR RONNIE SOH** continued...

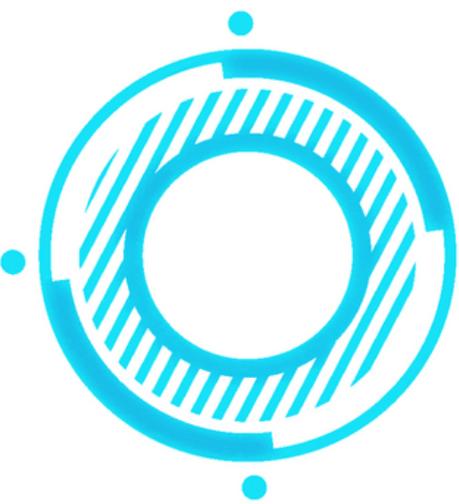
## **How does it feel to have finally graduated with a PhD?**

Graduating with a PhD is a sense of accomplishment as the skills and knowledge that I have gained will benefit my role as a lecturer. It feels good to have finally graduated. But more importantly, I realised that I have to keep up with the latest developments in my field of research and writing to maintain relevance in the academic world.

## **Could you share some advice to those intending to pursue a PhD or are currently in the midst of their candidature?**

Break up your tasks at hand for the thesis into smaller manageable parts. If you encounter any difficulties, you can proceed to do some other parts of your thesis before revisiting them. Maintain a good rapport with your supervisors and seek their guidance after you have mulled over the problem on your own. Keep on pushing yourself as you will definitely make slow but steady progress with your thesis. Lastly, try to accommodate as much as their supervisors' recommendations into your thesis as they have your best interests at heart.





## THE DIGITAL CHILD: eSAFETY AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP SYMPOSIUM

**ONE CURTIN and ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE DIGITAL CHILD SYMPOSIUM**  
Contributed by Dr. Carolyn Koh

It is an undisputable fact that the internet is a crucial part of many children's lives: it allows access to information and education and provides opportunities for social and emotional connections and support. However, with these benefits come various risks and challenges as children can be exposed to harmful and violent content, negative behaviours, threatened privacy, and at times, even threats to their personal safety. Furthermore, social media can negatively influence the development of self-concept and self-esteem in children and young adults.

How do we best protect children from the risks of online harm and give them the tools to remain safe and well within the digital environment?

Experts from academia, government, and education came together at a symposium hosted by Curtin Singapore on 7 September 2022 to discuss this important question from a global perspective, with a focus on the responsibilities of educators, government, and parents in Australia, Mauritius, and Singapore.

The speakers included the Australian eSafety Commissioner Ms Julie Inman Grant, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child members from Brisbane, Perth and Wollongong, academics from Curtin Mauritius, and industry partners from Singapore.

The discussion panel covered several poignant topics with candid sharing by the panel members. It was a thought-provoking afternoon where presenters shared important information on the research and activities that they are undertaking to ensure the safety of young internet users.

Over 70 people attended the event and several cross-campus research opportunities have arisen from the symposium.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S REGENERATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCE EXHIBITION IN SINGAPORE

Contributed by Dr. Zahirah Zainol



A landmark exhibition of regeneratively farmed WA produce was launched by Western Australian Agriculture and Food Minister, the Honourable Alannah MacTiernan MLC, at Raffles City on 5 September 2022.

The project is a collaboration between Curtin Perth and Curtin Singapore faculty, Associate Professor Min Teah and Dr Zahirah Zainol, in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Western Australia. The project aims to seek new opportunities and insights on the emerging premium market for Western Australia's regeneratively and sustainably farmed produce into an international market, such as Singapore. Singapore was identified as a good launching pad to market these produce due to its cosmopolitan city status and exposure to diverse international cuisines and cultures.

Regenerative agriculture is a farming practice that focuses on enhancing soil biology, and so, reducing reliance on synthetic chemicals thus increasing the nutritional value of the food produced.

The project entailed a highly engaging exhibition showcasing various educational content, games, and case studies from Western Australian farmers on how their agriculture is farmed and managed sustainably and regeneratively. The valuable case study insights will have long term effect and value to the future of sustainable food production. Attendees to the exhibition were given a tour of the exhibition by Curtin Singapore student volunteers.

The exhibition also featured 11 Western Australian businesses with produce such as fresh meat, sweet corn, bananas, avocados, black barley, oat milk, wines, pumpkin soup and truffle mash. The Western Australian exhibition was also part of Raffles City Project Green Campaign 2022.

# MOST RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY CURTIN SINGAPORE ACADEMICS

## **Dr Tien Nguyen:**

● Nguyen, T., V. Le, Nguyen, M., Tran, L., Nguyen, G, & Nguyen, O. (2022, August 29). Organisational agility and organisational performance – A literature review [Paper presentation]. 4th Asian Conference of Business and Economic Studies, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

● Westcott, M., & Nguyen, T. (2022). Superannuation Governance in Australia - Diversity and Independence on Profit-to-Member Funds. Labour & Industry. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10301763.2022.2137937>

## **Dr Adrian Tan, Dr Tien Nguyen, Dr Carolyn Koh, Professor Linley Lord:**

● Tan, A. H. T., Nguyen, T., Koh, C, & Lord, L. (2022, December 6-7). Gender equality in the workplace: The case of Singapore [Paper presentation]. Australia and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Conference 2022, Gold Coast, Australia.