



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SINGAPORE**  
HELPING DYSLIXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE



**Lim Hoon**  
FOUNDATION LIMITED  
林云基金会



## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

### **Lim Hoon Foundation commits S\$280,100 to DAS in 360° Pact to support post-secondary students with dyslexia**

*Collaboration will provide cohesive, comprehensive and collaborative support for dyslexic learners in Institutes of Higher Learning*

**SINGAPORE, 11 MARCH 2021** – The Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) today launched the Lim Hoon Foundation – DAS 360° Pact to raise awareness and provide pivotal support for students with dyslexia and other co-occurring learning difficulties in Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). As individuals with dyslexia process information and learn differently, the programme aims to augment traditional support structures in IHLs to maximise chances for academic and non-academic success.

As part of this collaboration, Lim Hoon Foundation (LHF) – the philanthropic arm of JL Family Office – has committed \$280,100 to fund the implementation of various programmes for three years from 2021 to 2024. The sum would benefit about 100 students with dyslexia from low-income families and also fund local research such as conducting a local study looking into the prevalence rate of dyslexia in Singapore and how to support post-secondary students with dyslexia.

Mr. Andy Lim, Director of LHF presented the cheque to Mr. Eric Lee, President of DAS at the DAS Academy at the REX House Learning Centre this morning.

This launch marks a significant milestone in efforts to move support for learning differences beyond pre-school, primary and secondary school students to post-secondary students. Over the years, support for young learners with dyslexia has become apparent and available in Singapore's educational system, with DAS delivering a broad range of programmes and services including the Main Literacy Programme (MLP), implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE). However, the provision of assessments and interventional support has not been emphasised by DAS to post-secondary students.

According to international statistics, an estimated 10 per cent of a population have dyslexia and four per cent have dyslexia severe enough to warrant intervention. This means that more than 10,000 IHL students in Singapore could benefit from more tailored, interventional support to manage their rigorous academic and non-academic demands. While a comparable study is not available in Singapore, a UK research has estimated that four per cent of students enrolled at all higher educational levels, including undergraduate and postgraduate, had Specific Learning Differences (SpLDs) in the 2011–2012 academic school year.<sup>1</sup> Dyslexia is normally the most prevalent SpLD.

Furthermore, the number of students from low-income households progressing to post-secondary education has notably increased in Singapore, from 5 in 10 students in 2002 to 9 in 10 students in 2018. This indicates a growing number of post-secondary students requiring financial assistance to access interventional support services.

In 2018, DAS piloted iStudySmart™ (iSS) - a programme specifically catering to the needs of post-secondary students with dyslexia, aiming to empower them with skills in time management, organisation, tertiary writing and

---

<sup>1</sup> Marco Pino and Luigina Mortari. 2014. *The Inclusion of Students with Dyslexia in Higher Education: A Systematic Review Using Narrative Synthesis*, 346-369 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4253321>



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SINGAPORE**  
HELPING DYSLIXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE



**Lim Hoon**  
FOUNDATION LIMITED  
林 云 基 金 会



presentation that are emphasised in IHLs. Building on the success of this trial, DAS is moving on to widen the impact of its efforts through the 360° Pact.

### **The 360° Pact: an all-embracing initiative**

Aimed at providing a comprehensive, cohesive and collaborative network of support for dyslexic learners in IHLs, the 360° Pact comprises the following pillars:

- A **dyslexia awareness campaign** targeted at IHLs, built upon the ongoing 'Embrace Dyslexia' campaign
- Providing **continuity of support** for students from low-income households entering IHLs by making screening, assessments and interventional services accessible to them. This includes encouraging graduating MLP students to transition into iSS or to take on individual intervention if they require intensive support. Over the three-year agreement period, the 360° Pact aims to fund the delivery of the iSS programme and bursaries for about 100 students
- Developing a community of practice by establishing like-minded partnership with IHLs including introducing **capability-building initiatives** for their staff
- Establishing and publishing local research data including conducting a **local interventional study** to further enhance iSS
- Usage of feedback from IHLs and data from the interventional study to pave the way for an **integrated support system** within IHLs for post-secondary students with dyslexia

"While a person does not outgrow dyslexia, with timely and effective intervention, they can be put on the best path to achieve success on their learning journey. DAS is greatly appreciative of Lim Hoon Foundation's philanthropic act to promote academic achievements and open up future opportunities for students with dyslexia. We hope that this 360° Pact will spur more efforts to fill a critical gap in the learning journey of students with learning differences in Singapore," said Mr. Lee Siang, CEO of DAS.

"This collaboration with DAS is personally very meaningful to me. I've always found spelling and phonetics challenging, and it was only this year that I was officially diagnosed with mild dyslexia. While what I experienced was not debilitating, I know there are others who had a tougher time than I did. I feel privileged that LHF is able to commit funds that will go towards helping students with dyslexia. I look forward to DAS publishing local data on dyslexia that will, hopefully, go a long way in informing how this condition can be better addressed in our country," said Mr. Andy Lim, Director of LHF who also shared his personal journey with dyslexia during the launch.

At today's event, a former iSS student, Maxx Ng also shared his experience with dyslexia and how iSS has helped him in his learning in IHL. Maxx is currently studying Community Care and Social Services at ITE College East and pursuing his interests in the school's Speaker's Society, Entrepreneurship Club and Drama Club.

"The skills I have gained from iSS have been extremely useful for me. In higher education, we undertake more project work which includes the need to produce reports and presentations. iSS has given me the skills to excel in this as well as the confidence to present in front of an audience. It has also helped me to be organised and plan well to meet my coursework deadlines. I do not think I will be as successful as I am now without the skills that I have learned from iSS," said Maxx.

Please go to <http://bit.ly/LHFDAS360> for speech by DAS President, event programme and presentation slides. Images and recordings from the event will also be uploaded onto this link after the event.

– End –



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SINGAPORE**  
HELPING DYSLEXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE



**Lim Hoon**  
FOUNDATION LIMITED  
林 云 基 金 会



## **ABOUT DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE (DAS)**

Registered in 1991, the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) is today a vibrant Social Service Agency with almost 300 full-time and part-time staff who provide a wide range of programmes for persons with dyslexia and specific learning differences in Singapore. DAS Educational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Psychologists provide services to over 3,500 preschool, primary and secondary school students in 14 centres all over Singapore.

DAS recognises that children with dyslexia and Specific Learning Differences (SpLD) require a comprehensive and holistic range of programmes and services. SpLD Assessment Services, the DAS assessment arm, conducts assessments in areas such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), school readiness and more. The Main Literacy Programme which is part-funded by the Ministry of Education supports over 3,000 primary and secondary students and provides critical intervention in areas such as reading fluency and comprehension, spelling and writing. Besides the Main Literacy Programme, DAS, through its Specialised Educational Services (SES) Division, also offers support in Mathematics, Chinese, English Exam Skills and Science. Through SES, DAS also offers programmes in non-academic pursuits such as Speech and Drama and ArtVenture. Increasingly, DAS will provide support for dyslexics who are also impacted by other SpLDs such as ADHD, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and non-verbal learning differences. Additionally, young adults in Institutes of Higher Learning will be able to access assessment and specialist tutoring services.

The DAS training arm, DAS Academy, provides certificate courses, diploma and masters level courses for the professional development of special needs and mainstream teachers and other educational professionals. The DAS Academy also provides courses and workshops for parents and caregivers.

## **ABOUT LIM HOON FOUNDATION**

Lim Hoon Foundation (LHF) is the private charitable trust of the JL Family Office. Its primary objective is to promote academic achievement for all students from kindergarten to university, especially those from low-income families. LHF's ultimate objective is the advancement of education through a range of philanthropic activities. The Foundation strongly believes that everyone deserves a holistic education no matter their financial background. Equal opportunity and access to education are key tenets of our meritocratic system. It is LHF's wish to open opportunities to disadvantaged students and help them become leaders of the next generation.

To date, LHF together with ARA Asset Management (ARA) collectively made an endowment contribution of S\$4 million to establish the ARA-LHF Scholarship with Singapore Management University, to fund 12 non-bonded ARA-LHF Scholarships yearly in perpetuity.

Since its inception, over 1,300 scholarships and bursaries have been given out to various beneficiaries.

## **ABOUT JL FAMILY OFFICE**

JL Family Office (JLFO) is the investment holding group of companies founded by Mr John Lim, Co-Founder and Deputy Chairman of ARA Asset Management Limited. JLFO comprises an investment arm which oversees a global portfolio based on the investment philosophy of Mr Lim, as well as a philanthropic arm, Lim Hoon Foundation. Its



**DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION  
OF SINGAPORE**  
HELPING DYSLEXIC PEOPLE ACHIEVE



**Lim Hoon**  
FOUNDATION LIMITED  
林云基金会



core portfolio companies include a 20.41% stake in ARA Asset Management, a leading APAC real assets fund manager with a global reach.

For more information, please visit [www.jlfo.com.sg](http://www.jlfo.com.sg)

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Sherilyn Ng  
Associate  
The Right Spin Public Relations  
Tel: +65 9424 9010  
Email: [sherilyn@therightspin.com.sg](mailto:sherilyn@therightspin.com.sg)

Deborah Hewes  
Assistant Director of Publicity and Publications  
Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS)  
Tel: +65 6594 0338  
Email: [deborah.hewes@das.org.sg](mailto:deborah.hewes@das.org.sg)

Bernadette Low  
Associate  
The Right Spin Public Relations  
Tel: +65 8609 1286  
Email: [bernadette@therightspin.com.sg](mailto:bernadette@therightspin.com.sg)