



NEXT GEN
INVESTORS ENDOWMENT

IMPACT REPORT 2021 - 2022

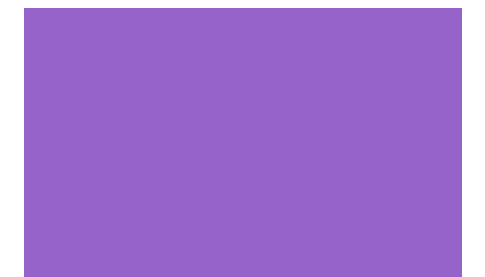


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ABOUT

Creating a more sustainable and responsible world for our next generation takes all of us, including them. It's time to give them back their autonomy to empower the next generation to shape their own future, through investing.

Next Gen Investors Endowment

Next Gen Investors Endowment Ltd. is a Singapore-incorporated non-profit organization that educates and moulds the next generation of responsible investors.

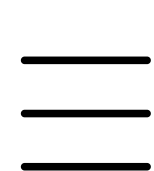
This Report

This is the first year Next Gen Investors Endowment (the “Endowment”) is reporting its impact. This report covers all programs and initiatives active from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Through this report, we hope to provide our supporters a more comprehensive picture of the achievements and long-term goals of the Endowment.

The Endowment has been diligently running the Gen Z Value Investing Program for 4 years and long-term investing has always been the core of all our programs. However, over the last few years, with the push of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen investors worldwide becoming increasingly focused on managing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks through their investments and seeking ways to have positive impact. We recognize the need to help our next generation build the necessary ESG investing framework in a systematic manner to better tackle the challenges and risks that come with long-term investing. Hence, in 2021, we introduced the new program Next Gen ESG Investing Program, together with Arisaig Partners. The program covers topics such as assessment of materiality of ESG issues, incorporation of ESG factors into valuation, and corporate engagement.

To further scale our impact, we have also co-hosted the SMU-Next Gen ESG Investing Conference and are planning the Investoon Game Show with Singapore Management University and local community centers respectively to raise public awareness for ESG investing.

The Endowment believes in the power of investing to move the world forward and we know our next generation is the most important driver in this process. Investing in our next generations’ investor education is investing in our joint future. We thank you for joining us on the journey and being part of the change, and we hope to inspire and activate others to come along, to help us further our goals of investor education.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



SDG #4: Quality Education

We firmly believe that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. Through our programs, we aim to provide inclusive and quality investor education for all to eliminate gender and wealth disparities so that all may access quality investor education.

We are proud to say that we have given out four scholarships to sponsor students from low-income families (annual household income below S\$2,500) to pursue higher education and welcomed them as part of the Generation Z Investment Club.

The Endowment has also raised a total amount of S\$18,900 to support all 21 students of the Next Gen ESG Investing Program (2021 Cohort) to undertake the CFA Certificate in ESG Investing. All 21 students have registered for the exam, but most will only complete it by end of 2022.



SDG #5: Gender Equality

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only basic human right, but also crucial for a sustainable future. In the United States, of more than 7,400 portfolio managers tracked by Morningstar, only 9% are women and they run just 2% of the trillions of mutual fund assets. Women have always been under-represented in the financial sector, and especially so in the front office of asset management industry.

Through our continuous effort, the Endowment has increased its number of female members in Generation Z Investment Club from 23.1% in 2018 to 39.5% today. 40% of our student leaders are females.



GENERATION Z INVESTMENT CLUB

Generation Z Investment Club (the “Z Club®”) is an intercollegiate student-run investment community operated by the Endowment that seeks to inspire the next generation of leading investors by equipping members with the right mindset and knowledge for a life-long investor journey.

There are two active programs under the Z Club®, namely the **Next Gen ESG Investing Program** and the **Gen Z Value Investing Program**.



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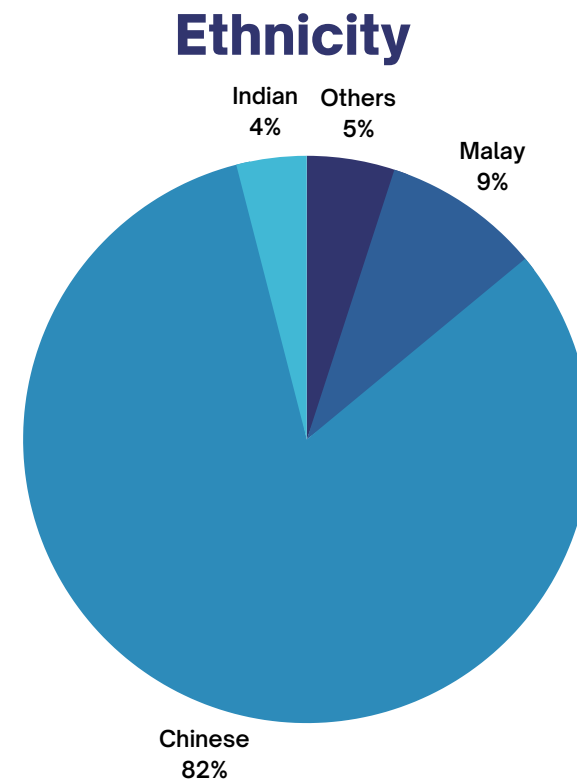
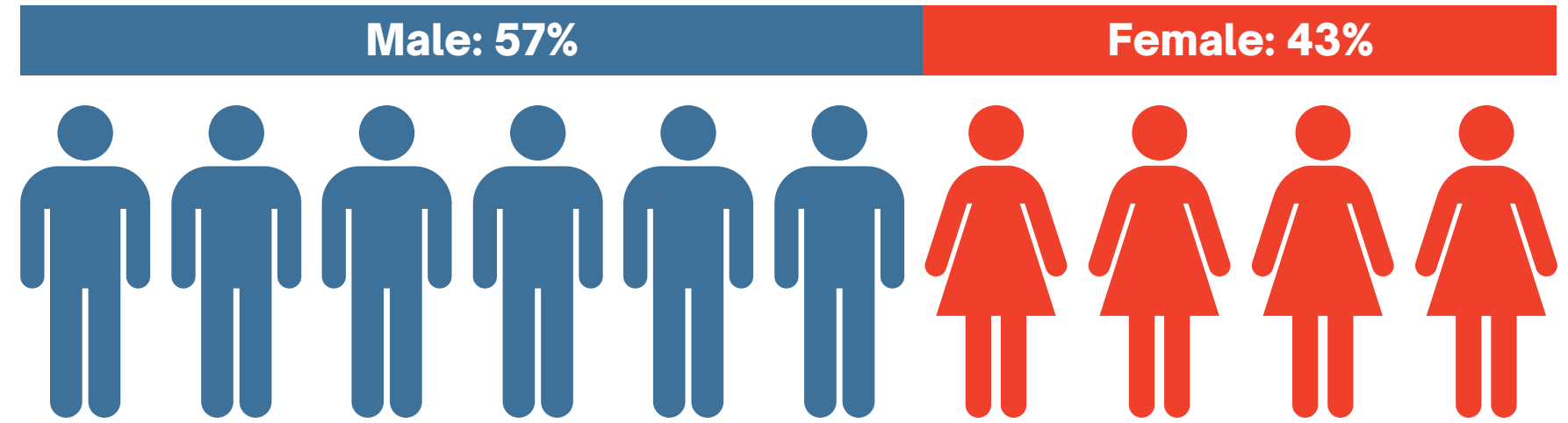
NEXT GEN ESG INVESTING PROGRAM

Next Gen ESG Investing Program

The Next Gen ESG Investing Program (the “ESG Program”) is a two-year program delivered by leading industry professionals and is designed to support preparation for the CFA Institute Certificate in ESG Investing. We recruit members from Singapore universities, no prior knowledge is required, and the program is free for all. We provide real capital (US\$40,000) for our members to put their learnings into practice and generate their investment track record. We designed a curriculum that consists of real ESG investment case studies, the Sustainability Game Show developed by CFA Institute with BNP Paribas Asset Management, and educational webtoons.

The ESG Program also serves as a diverse and inclusive community that provides advice, knowledge and support to young ESG investors and equip them with the necessary skillsets to make impact through investing.

The ESG Program was officially launched in July 2021 and we received 119 applications from students across universities in Singapore. We have very carefully selected 21 students to be the first cohort of the ESG Program.



School	No. of Students	Percentage of Cohort
National University of Singapore	7	33%
Nanyang Technological University	8	38%
Singapore Management University	5	24%
Tsinghua University	1	5%

We are proud to share some data points to exemplify the impact that the ESG Program has created.

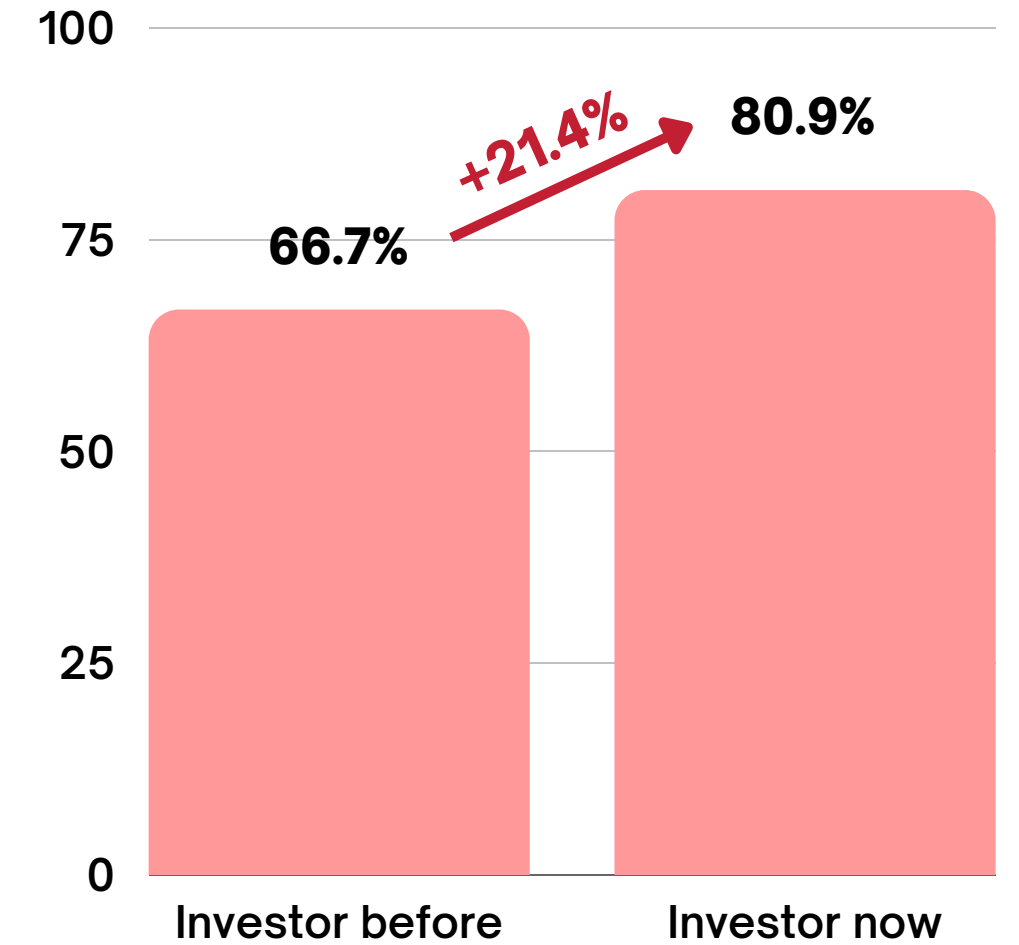
100% of our Next Gen ESG Investing Program students agree that they will recommend this program to their peers.

100% of our Next Gen ESG Program students agree that ESG is important.

21.4% of students from the program have also converted from a non-investor to an investor.

**According to internal survey.*

Percentage of students that invest before and after the ESG Program



Our students have grown and matured drastically as investors since they joined the ESG Program.

Students' Definition of "Long-term"

Before joining the ESG Program, our students' definition of "long-term" is **4.7 years** on average. After going through almost one year of the ESG Program, their definition of "long-term" has become **6.9 years** on average, a **42.6% increase**.

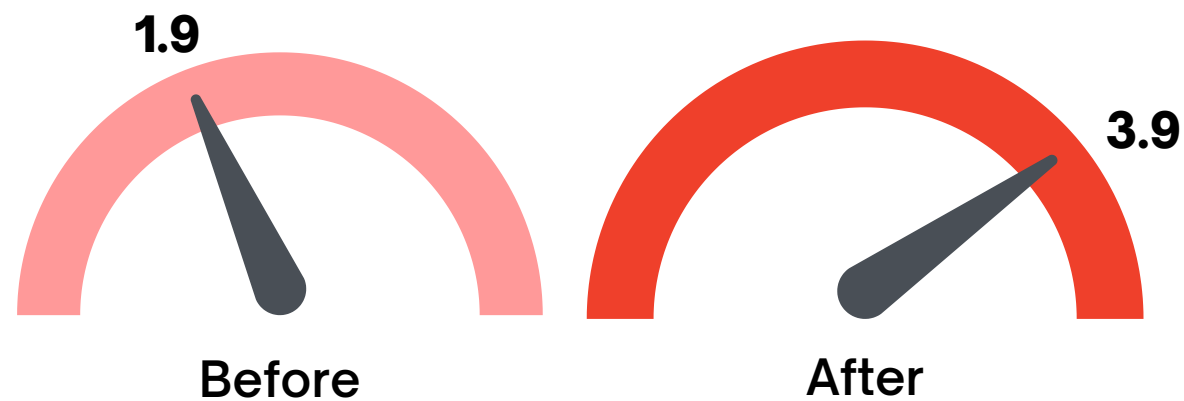
Students' Definition of "Long-term" in years



Students' Understanding of ESG

Before joining the ESG Program, our students rated their understanding of ESG to be **1.9 out of 5**, on average. After joining the ESG Program, our students rated their understanding of ESG to be **3.9 out of 5**, on average. This is a drastic **107% increase** in level of understanding on the topic of ESG investing.

Students' Understanding of ESG on a scale of 5



Certificate in ESG Investing

All 21 students have signed up for the CFA Certificate in ESG Investing and are expected to complete the exam by end of 2022.



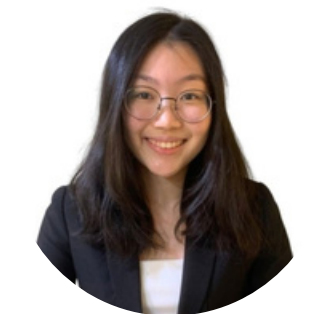
We surveyed our students on how they have changed after going through the ESG Program, and here are some of the selected answers.



*"Sleep at night" consideration is probably the best approach to sustainable long-term investing on a personal level. But to build this conviction, one has to buy wonderful businesses at a fair price, and ESG integration in the analysis framework is indispensable in this respect, given the long-time horizon we are looking at. In terms of behaviour, I used to trade more than I hold a long position, but that has turned on its head after the programme. - **Ang Jing Zhe***



*I am much more detail-oriented now in investing, with a deeper understanding of how to evaluate a company. In addition, I also have a more nuanced mindset towards ESG as I know it's not always good or bad, and there are a lot of grey areas and trade-offs to be considered. – **Pearline Pang***



*I have learnt to become a long-term investor that look at fundamentals and integrate elements of ESG into my decision making. It is key to understand that climate and transition risk are material to companies and will definitely affect its position in the long-run. – **Teo Jia Yi***



*I think it has given me a lot more confidence in investing on my own, and I have gained so much more knowledge than I would have started out this journey on my own. I am so, so grateful for this programme! – **Grace Ang***



ESG Program Portfolio

The ESG Program students have formed four teams and each manage US\$10,000. We are proud to say that the aggregated portfolio of the ESG Program students have generated significant alpha since inception in Jan 2022, outperforming the MSCI World Index by 15.0%.

Portfolio Performance: Aggregated

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI	
Year 2022	0.0%	-0.1%	0.3%	-2.8%	-1.9%	0.7%							-5.2%	-19.3%	
													Since Inception	-3.9%	-18.9%

Breakdown of each team's performance is as followed:

Team Allas	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI	
Year 2022	0.0%	-0.4%	0.9%	-1.6%	-0.7%	-2.6%							-4.4%	-19.3%	
													Since Inception	-4.4%	-19.3%

Team Dream	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI	
Year 2022	0.0%	0.0%	-1.9%	0.1%	2.4%	6.2%							6.7%	-18.9%	
													Since Inception	6.7%	-18.9%

Team Prism	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI	
Year 2022	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%							0.0%	-18.9%	
													Since Inception	0.0%	-18.9%

Team Viridi Terrae	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI	
Year 2022	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	-9.7%	-9.8%	-1.2%							-17.8%	-18.9%	
													Since Inception	-17.8%	-18.9%



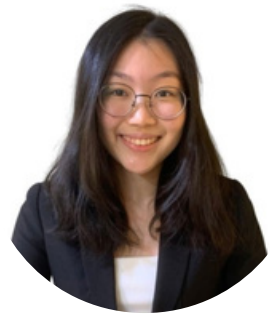
Job Opportunities

As part of our effort to help young investors pursue their career in investing, we have introduced the Internship Program in 2021 to connect students with reputable asset management firms. We are proud to say that we have successfully helped 23.8% of our cohort secure internships through our direct network. They are currently interning with Bank of Singapore, Vertex Ventures, Arisaig Partners, and Star Magnolia Capital. We have selected some testimonials written by students who have landed an ESG investing related internship because of the ESG Program.



ARISAIG PARTNERS

*My time in the Next Gen ESG Investing Program with Z Club has strengthened my fundamentals to investing and exposed me to a range of asset classes through our Meet the Investor sessions. With a focus on public equities and weekly ESG discussions for 2 months, I have greater awareness on the topic and am more confident to have conversations with fellow enthusiasts. A combination of all these varied experiences has helped me in attaining an internship with Arisaig Partners this summer — together with former mentors from our ESG classes. I look forward to working with them and sharing the insights I'll learn with other Z Club members in the future! – **Anne Kaila Recio***



 BANK OF SINGAPORE

With the broad connections the club has and the passion from the team to nurture young talents, I am able to learn from best in class industry professionals and even have the chance to work under their guidance. Z club has helped me in getting internships at Vertex Venture Southeast Asia and India as a research and communications intern as well as Bank of Singapore as a Sustainability (ESG) intern. Both my internships have benefitted me in many ways: experience work in different industries, meet friendly mentors, made me understand what I value in a job and most importantly to DISCOVER.

*In particular, my stint at bank of Singapore has affirmed my passion for sustainable finance and I hope to pursue this realm as my career after I graduate. I am always grateful for the support of the club, from the littlest of things like answering our queries, doubts or requests to bigger things like helping us with job and internship search. Thank you Z Club! I made one of my best University memories here and I'll never trade this opportunity for anything else! :D – **Teo Jia Yi***





I joined Generation Z Investment Club in July 2021 under the Next Gen ESG Investing Program. At that time, I had almost zero investment experience and have not even heard of the term ESG. Nonetheless, through an informative sharing session by the club, I understood the importance of ESG in investing and found it very interesting. I then went ahead to apply as I wanted to learn more about ESG. Upon joining, the club conducted a boot camp for all new members, and I found it greatly beneficial as someone who did not have any prior finance knowledge. Moreover, the mentors were all professionals in the industry and hence the lessons were current and relevant.

*Upon completion of the boot camp, we were entrusted with real money to invest in public equities, putting the training we had to good use. This is a unique experience that almost all other student investment clubs are unable to provide. Most importantly, we were encouraged to take risks as the ultimate purpose is to learn and grow as an investor. Such an experience is extremely valuable not only for my personal development but also an experience that I could share with hiring managers when I interviewed for internships. With the holistic training from the club, I have managed to secure an internship with Star Magnolia Capital, a multi-family office, and I am looking forward to the upcoming summer. – **Lee Wai Hong***

All our other students have also received internship offers from top institutions, including Temasek, TikTok, Deutsche Bank and DBS.

TEMASEK



Though this is only the first year of the ESG Program, we are confident that with the generous support of our donors, we will be able to continue to grow the ESG Program and improve its offerings to help our next generation acquire the necessary skillsets to become great and responsible investors.



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GEN Z VALUE INVESTING PROGRAM

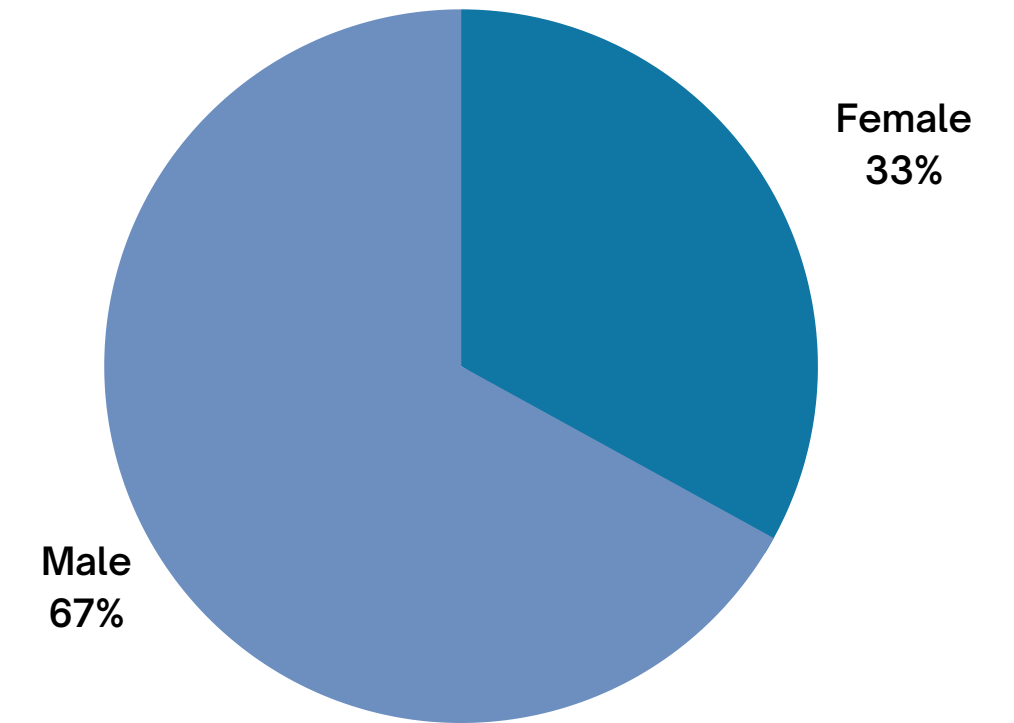
Value Investing Program

The Gen Z Value Investing Program (the “Value Investing Program”) is one of the flagship programs of the Generation Z Investment Club. It seeks to raise up the next generation of value investors through equipping them with the necessary skillsets to conduct deep-dive research and analysis of public companies.

The program was first launched in 2018 with 13 members and have grown into a 57-member (including alumni) community. The 2021 cohort consists of 33% female and 67% male, it has been an ongoing effort on our part to increase the percentage of female members for the Value Investing Program.

The Value Investing Program has two chapters, namely the International Chapter and the Greater China Chapter, to cater to members’ language and geography preferences.

Each Chapter manages US\$50,000 and despite the market volatility, have achieved positive return and outperformed the MSCI World Index since inception.



Portfolio Performance: Aggregated

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD	MSCI
Year 2019							-0.7%	-1.7%	1.8%	1.2%	2.6%	2.7%	6.0%	4.6%
Year 2020	-2.8%	-2.4%	-8.2%	8.8%	5.4%	4.9%	4.9%	11.0%	-2.0%	3.5%	5.4%	2.4%	33.7%	11.4%
Year 2021	1.3%	0.4%	-2.2%	1.5%	-0.7%	0.8%	-4.3%	0.7%	-3.0%	3.7%	-5.9%	-2.1%	-9.8%	21.6%
Year 2022	-0.6%	-3.0%	-4.9%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%							-5.2%	-19.3%
	Since Inception												17.8%	15.0%



Giving Back

Members of the Program have opted to donate their performance fee (20% of return) to create a scholarship to support students from low-income families to pursue higher education. Given that 2021 and 2022 have been down years for the Value Investing Program portfolio, we have also raised external donations to support this year's scholarships. Currently, we have four scholars, all of whom are based in China. Here is a testimonial from one of them.



My hometown is a small mountain village in Gansu Province. My parents are farmers, so my family income depends only on my parents to farm and sell crops. My mother is not in good health. I have my sister and brother in school at the same time, so I am really nervous in terms of managing our finances, so I need this scholarship. I also didn't know anything about investing, and I didn't really have any concept of what it was either. I think this sense of ignorance is a terrible thing. For me, the Gen Z Scholarship not only supports students like us, but also gives us the opportunity to join Z Club to learn how to invest. It is a very special scholarship.

I have learned a lot of methods to analyze stocks, as well as related financial knowledge. If I were not in this team, I would not have thought of learning content like this. But I think the biggest and most obvious change is psychological. For me, investing is no longer an unattainable and very distant thing. To be honest, when I applied for the scholarship, I was a little afraid and felt that investing was very dangerous, because you always hear or see on TV about how people who speculated in stocks may have lose their familys' savings. But now I know that yes, investing is risky, but more importantly, our mentality should be straightened out, we shouldn't be greedy: we should aim to perform careful analysis, not speculation. Be patient, adhere to value investment principles, and long-term investing will get you considerable returns. However, the behaviour and mentality of "chasing highs and avoiding lows", fantasizing about gaining wealth overnight are undesirable and will cause problems. - Kayla Bai

Scholars Profile

Name	Hometown	School	Note
Kayla Bai Yongling	Gansu Province	Hunan University of Science and Technology	Scholar of 2020
Liu Shengjie	Gansu Province	Lanzhou University of Technology	Scholar of 2020
Wang Ying	Yunnan Province	Awaiting Gaokao results	Conditional offer given
Liu Xinyu	Shaanxi Province	Awaiting Gaokao results	Conditional offer given

Invest Your Life Bootcamp

In order to help our members build a strong foundation of knowledge, we run a 6-weeks Invest Your Life Bootcamp at the start of the Value Investing Program. Our members have given great testimonials to the bootcamp.



I think the overall structure was very good and the flow was there. I learnt a lot as someone who doesn't have much knowledge in this area. The stock pitch was a great way to end it off, letting us look into the other teams thoughts so openly for the first time and also giving us a glimpse into the standards we need to achieve. – Sidharth Venkataraman



I like that the curriculum from week 1 throughout the final week was not only about theory, but also provides some avenues for application (e.g. as the lecturers applied those concepts to real life stocks they were looking at), which helped me better connect how I can tie in those concepts to my own investments. I think that the manga reading session is a refreshing way for us to come together in groups to discuss and learn from each other's investment journeys, thoughts and opinions which were really diverse and is something I enjoy every week - I also started to gain an interest in reading manga as a genre! – Ng Yu Xin

Job Opportunities

On top of helping our members acquire investing knowledge, we have also provided access to internship and full-time job opportunities to our members through our network. Firms that have hired from our Gen Z Program include Discerene Group, Auspice Capital Management, Pinpoint Asset Management, and Star Magnolia Capital. We are proud to mention that one of our alumni, Max Tai, has even founded his own asset management company - Rainforest Partnership - right out of college.



SMU-NEXT GEN ESG INVESTING CONFERENCE

The SMU-Next Gen ESG Investing (SMU-NGEI) Conference brings together Asia’s savviest ESG investors to share insights and investment ideas to raise awareness for ESG investing and to support the Endowment’s cause of grooming the next generation of responsible investors. This event is co-organized by Singapore Management University, Next Gen Investors Endowment Ltd., and SMU EYE Investment Club.



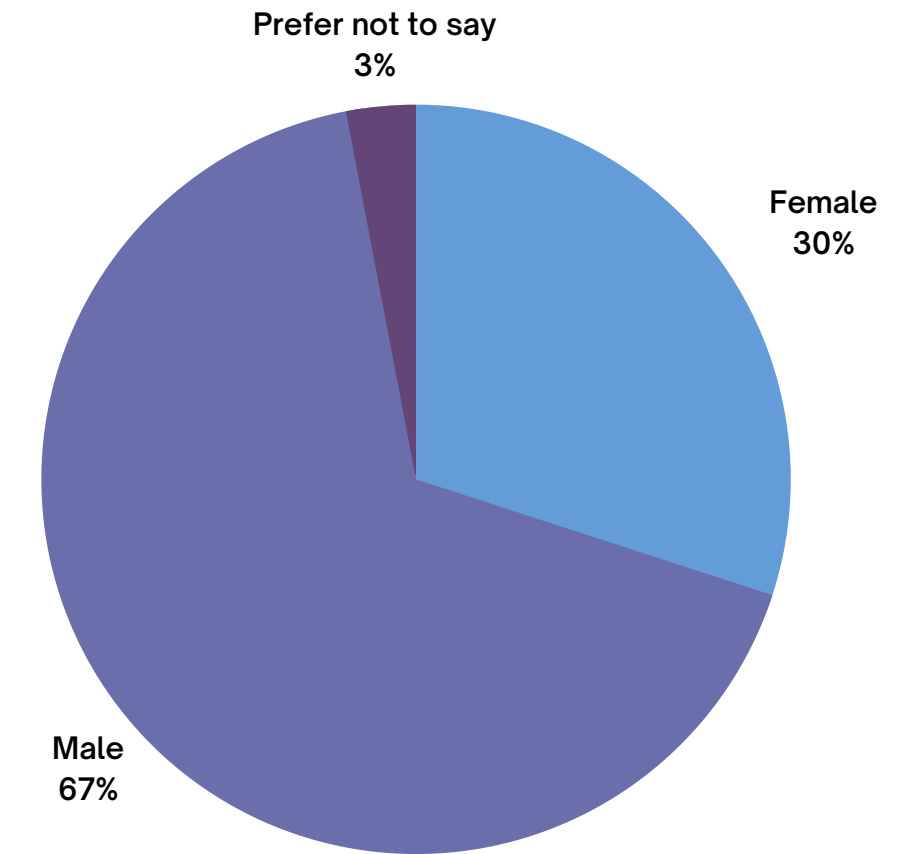
Conference

The Conference consists of:

1. ESG presentations by reputable investors.
2. SMU-Next Gen ESG Investing Cup (the “SMU-NGEI Cup”).

The SMU-NGEI Cup called for an actionable investment idea that evaluates the materiality of ESG issues and its impact to the company over a long-term investment horizon. The teams came out with a comprehensive ESG scoring metrics for the relevant company chosen and assessed whether it was an investable idea. Such presentation was made in front of the attendees at the Conference. Our distinguished panel of judges selected the winning investment idea based on their determination of the most compelling idea with a 36-month horizon.

We have received 61 applications from a total 171 students for the SMU-NGEI Cup, out of which 30% are female and 67% are male.



Gender of Candidates for the SMU-NGEI Cup

We received an overwhelming response for the first-ever ESG Conference with over 100 sign-ups. Despite the morning starting with a heavy downpour, around 80 audiences showed up at the Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium of Singapore Management University's School of Accountancy.

Finals

We shortlisted 4 teams for the in-person finals at Singapore Management University:

Award	Team	Member	School	Company Pitched
Champion	Team GameStock	Ang Jing Zhe	National University of Singapore	GDS Holdings (NASDAQ: GDS)
		Lee Cheng Jia	Nanyang Technological University	
		Grace Ang	Nanyang Technological University	
1st Runner-up	Team Everything	Pearline Pang	National University of Singapore	GDS Holdings (NASDAQ: GDS)
		Sidhaarth Venkataraman	Nanyang Technological University	
		Teo Jia Yi	Nanyang Technological University	
2nd Runner-up	ORA Capital	Russell King	Singapore Management University	BYD Company (SHE: 002594)
		Amelia Lee		
		Sok Tonh Oudom		
Finalist	Aladdin Capital	Dione Goh	Singapore University of Social Sciences	Nike, Inc (NYSE: NKE)
		Ng Qi Han		
		Sadayan Izzudin		



Pearline Pang, Best Analyst Award, pitching GDS Holdings. She is also the Vice-Chairwoman of the ESG Investing Program.

Top to bottom:
Team GameStock, Champion
Team Everything, 1st Runner-up

Both teams are from the Next Gen ESG Investing Program.

The Best Analyst Award was also awarded to Pearline Pang from the National University of Singapore, this award entails Pang a final interview with Arisaig Partners for a 2023 Summer Internship.

We are proud to say that both the Champion and 1st Runner-up teams comprise of students from our Next Gen ESG Investing Program. This is the first stock pitch competition most of them have participated in, and for some, their first contact with investing. We cannot be happier for their growth and achievements.

Overwhelming Positive Feedback

The Conference has received very positive feedback from attendees and students.

Kif Ho, CFA • 2nd
Asset Allocation | Endowment | Quant | Portfolio Manager | ...
1w • 6

+ Follow

Great effort by [Next Gen Investors Endowment](#) and [EYE Investment Club](#) for putting together the SMU-Next Gen ESG Investing Cup last week. The students who put in the hard work amid the late nights and delivered impressive stock pitches! I was very impressed by the quality of the analysis, all the while considering for ESG-integrated valuations and risk mitigations.

Thanks to all the judges who volunteer their time and mentoring the students. Looking forward to the next years edition!

#investing #sustainability Singapore Management University
Tiffany Liu Gordon Yeo Jen Loong Matt Dearth



Kif Ho, Associate Director
Office of Investment
Singapore Management University

Jen Loong • 2nd
Operator turn early-stage venture investor and builder in As...
2w • 6

+ Follow

Kudos to [Tiffany Liu](#) and [Next Gen Investors Endowment](#) team for hosting the [Singapore Management University](#) Next Gen ESG Investing Cup series last week.

Students were put to the test with real-life stock pitches, all the while considering for ESG-integrated valuations and risk mitigations. Wining teams even won cash to invest into their proposed strategies!

Gen Z group has many initiatives in educating students around #esginvesting, including even a comic book (see picture). Thanks [Gordon Yeo](#) / [Arisaig Partners](#) for introducing me to such an enterprising group of young talent in Singapore.



Jen Loong, Investment Director
Sustainable Future Fund



I would like to thank Next Gen Investors Endowment for hosting..., to our mentor Joy Tianyue Wu for imparting her wisdom and expertise, and... for guiding me through my first case competition! I am grateful that I was able to learn from like-minded students and witnessed the thought processes of experts in this field!

– **Russell Rex King, ORA Capital**



Had the change to not only listen to and interact with so many inspiring investors from diverse backgrounds, but also meet many down-to-earth mentors and great friends who share the same passion for investing and sustainability. This time last year, I could hardly imagine myself taking the stage for an ESG stock pitch...

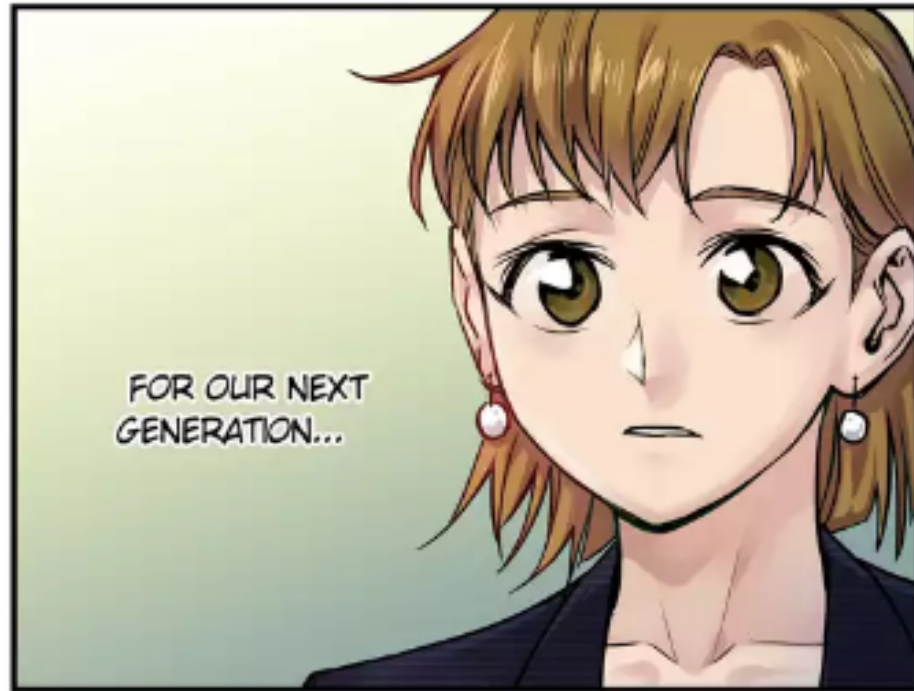
– **Ang Jing Zhe, Team GameStock**



I would like to thank Next Gen Investors Endowment, Tiffany Liu, Shinya Deguchi for putting together the SMU-Next Gen ESG Investing Stock Pitch 2022... I learned a lot from this competition and met many amazing people. I would like to thank... Daryl Dunbar for your wisdom and experience in our due diligence call.

– **Lee Cheng Jia, Team GameStock**

INVESTOON GAME SHOW



People and community have been the core of who we are and what we do. This is why the Endowment has expanded our efforts to the local community. The Investoon Game Show is an in-house developed interactive game that introduces newcomers to ESG Investing through the use of our proprietary webtoon. Participants are expected to read the webtoon and form teams for discussion. The course is complemented with a 60-minute Investoon Game Show to help the participating teams deepen their knowledge, plus a 30-minute fireside chat with an ESG investment expert.

Potential Partnerships

We are currently in the process of planning our pilot sessions with the West Coast Community Centre and Yew Tee Youth Network in Singapore. The sessions should take place this summer. The estimated outreach of the pilot session will be 50 youths. We are confident that with the success of the pilot sessions, we will be able to extend the Investoon Game Show to more communities and enhance its impact.



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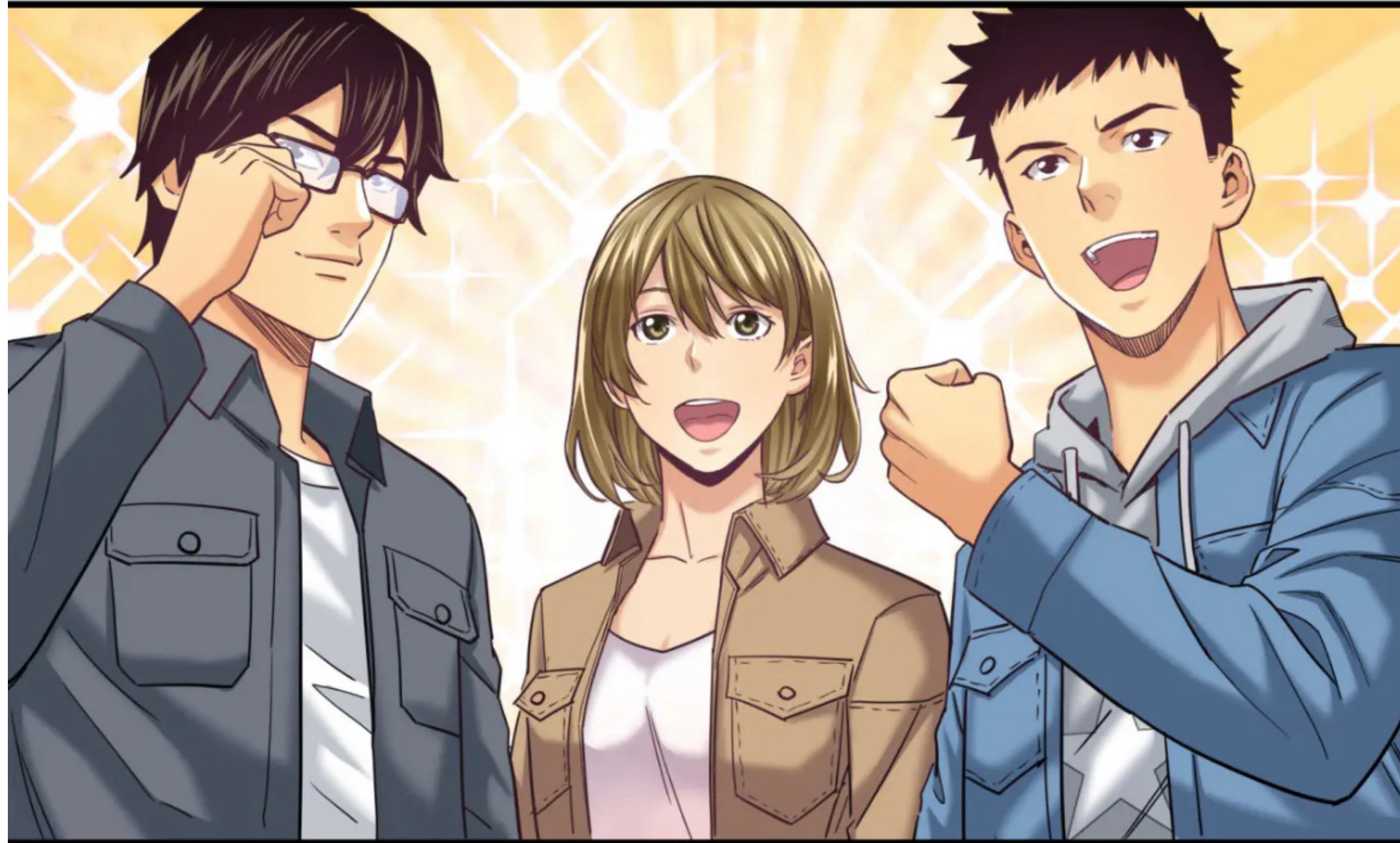
Financials

Awards and Recognition

Be our Supporter

FINANCIALS

Please feel free to contact us as admin@genzclub.org to request for our Management Accounts.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Money Awareness and Inclusion Awards



We are very pleased to announce that the Endowment is a Finalist for The Money Awareness and Inclusion Awards, or “the MAIAs” for 2022, in the Best Non-Profit for School-Age category.

The MAIAs 2022 received 150 high-quality entries from all over the world for these inaugural awards, and so the Endowment is extremely grateful for the recognition. The judging panel includes academics, influencers, fintech entrepreneurs, and journalists, all of whom care deeply that financial literacy spreads faster across the world, to reduce inequalities and encourage advancement.

The Business Times Interview

Monday, April 18, 2022

THE BUSINESS TIMES



Students learn to become the next investing powerhouse

Young people are forming their own networks that explore the art of investment

By Claudia Chong
chongmcb@sgpt.com.sg
@ClaudiaChongBT

Singapore

TIFFANY Liu had no clue what a hedge fund was till she interviewed for an investor relations role at a Hong Kong-based investment firm 6 years ago, fresh out of university.

She didn't even like mathematics and had never analysed a stock. But today, Liu runs an international club that lets youth try their hand at investing with a pool of real cash. The club even has prominent institutions such as the CFA Institute backing an environmental, social and governance (ESG) programme it recently launched.

"My family doesn't really talk about money. So even though my parents manage their own wealth, it's something I've never picked up," said Liu, an international relations graduate who now works as a senior associate at a multi-family office.

At a time of intense market volatility and mounting interest in alternative assets, some young people in Singapore are banding together to learn how to become the next Warren Buffett. Frustrated with a lack of early financial education, these youngsters are launching investment networks that

touch everything from public markets to angel investing.

"I'd always thought that you have to be good with numbers, but my ex-manager helped me realise that that's not the case," said Liu. "It's actually more about the people, understanding the management and business model, and also having that long-term mindset and judgement to see how far a business can go."

Like Liu, entrepreneur Chen Pinzhang saw a gap in the investment landscape during his time as president of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Entrepreneurship Society. Despite South-east Asia's tech boom, young founders still lacked access to crucial angel investors.

Together with 12 other co-founders, Chen, whose full-time job is running his gaming keyboard company, started NUS Alumni Ventures (NAV) in 2020 and modelled it after Stanford's alumni-led angel investment network. Over 100 university students and young alumni have joined the programme to date.

All members are trained to evaluate startups. Those that join the analyst team vet about 100 deals each quarter before referring them to a network of over 80 angels. Others work on mentorship programmes and investor relations.

NAV thought about starting a fund, but regulations made it tricky, said Chen. Other options are still on the table, including a special

purpose vehicle for pooled investments.

Startup investing has been gaining ground in Singapore, sparking interest from those beyond the realm of finance. Student-run venture fund Protege Ventures has trained over 200 people majoring in a range of fields such as computer science, liberal arts and engineering.

Some are aspiring venture capitalists (VCs), while others are budding entrepreneurs wanting to get into the minds of VCs, said managing partner Benedict Chong, who got hooked on the mechanics of the tech ecosystem after watching reality TV series Shark Tank.

Chong graduated from the Singapore Management University in January and now works at US tech unicorn Carta.

Angel investing, too, has gained a glittering allure due to its potential for outsized returns. NAV's young members have been tempted to put nominal sums of their own in startups, but Chen has cautioned against hasty investments in the risky asset class.

"I have a responsibility to make sure that they come out of it learning more, rather than come out of it burning themselves," he said.

At Gen Z Group, the club founded in 2018 by Liu and Japanese businessman Shinya Deguchi, students invest in public equities out of a \$5200,000 fund sponsored by Deguchi's family, which runs a pharmaceutical business in Japan.

Gen Z's fund, which has invested in airline stocks to Chinese tech, is up 17.2 per cent since its July 2019 inception, lower than the MSCI World Index's 33.3 per cent.

"Luckily or unluckily for them, our

students have gone through many ups and downs. For the past few years, the market has been really crazy," said Liu.

The pandemic has created fertile ground for learning, Liu added. It's also pushed a new generation of bored and cooped-up youth to start investing for the first time. Banks, brokerages and wealth advisers in Singapore saw a jump in account openings by 18 to 24-year-olds in 2020.

It's a good sign for financial institutions, which for years have grappled with the stubborn issue of financial literacy. A survey released last year by Franklin Templeton found that young Singaporeans, while eager to invest, are anxious about making investment decisions.

Startup founder Devi Sahny believes that teaching children and teenagers about investments not only gives them a headstart in life,

but also gives them the confidence to form their own opinions.

Together with companies such as Goldman Sachs and Accenture, Sahny's startup Ascend Now crafted a stock portfolio course for 9 to 15-year-olds.

It begins with a virtual portfolio of \$5100,000 and ends with students getting \$52,000 of real money, either from their parents or Ascend, to invest with.

Students pick a sector they would like to focus on – gaming or tech being the most popular – and are introduced to concepts such as valuation models, peer comparison and industry analysis.

While some have taken the course and decided that finance is not for them, others have emerged with a newfound passion for investing.

"They like things that are moving and stimulating, and they like to understand the analytics behind that," said Sahny.



Gen Z Group members visited several asset managers during a 2019 trip to Hong Kong, including Chartwell Capital's chief investment officer Ronald Chan.

PHOTO: GEN Z GROUP

The Next Gen Investors Endowment was featured on the front page of The Business Times on 18 April 2022. The Endowment's programs are recognized as an innovative way of investor education.



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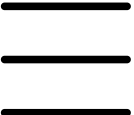
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