

11 June 2018

## **News Release**

### **YOUTH CAMP PROVIDES UNIQUE INSIGHTS IN CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION**

1. Organised by the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) and supported by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) and the Cyber Security Agency, the annual Cyber Defenders Discovery Camp (CDDC) has been raising youths' interest in cybersecurity and strengthening Singapore's cybersecurity talent pipeline. This year is the sixth edition of the camp, and saw a record 500 students embarking on an experiential learning journey where they gained insights and honed their skills in cyber defence techniques and methodologies.

2. In his speech as the Guest of Honour at the award ceremony on 11 June, Minister for Education Mr Ong Ye Kung emphasised the value of the CDDC in discovering and grooming young cyber talents who will contribute to defending our cyber space. He said, "This Camp is part of a much larger effort to uncover and develop cyber talents in Singapore. The competition does not stop after the award ceremony. This is when the real competition begins. Winners of the competition, whether you know this or not, will be shortlisted and invited to apply for the Cyber NSF scheme. Because if you win, you are the best in your cohort. If you are successful, you will serve your National Service (NS) as a cyber defender." He also highlighted the need to build a strong relationship between academia and the industry. He added, "To support these efforts (for cross-industry exchanges), DSTA will be signing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with our five Polytechnics with our five Polytechnics to strengthen their collaborations in curriculum development."

3. Held over a period of four weeks in May and June, this year's camp comprised a comprehensive three-week online training programme, where participants were introduced to cybersecurity methodologies such as monitoring networks and systems, responding to cyber incidents and analysing forensic evidence. Thereafter, participants applied their knowledge and skills at a two-day online qualifier. These activities culminated in a thrilling on-site competition on 11 June, where the 50 best teams from the online qualifiers applied their skills and ingenuity in team competition challenges that simulated current trends and threats in the real-world IT environment. One of it challenged participants to override a drone system.

4. At the award ceremony, Mr Ong presented awards and cash prizes to the winning teams and the best defender teams of the Junior College/Integrated Programme, University/Polytechnic and Open categories. Introduced in CDDC for the first time, the Open category saw the participation of international university teams from six countries<sup>1</sup>.

5. At the camp, defence engineers from DSTA also provided guidance and shared their experiences with the youths. One mentor was Lynnette Ng, 25, currently a senior engineer at DSTA's Information Programme Centre, who had participated in the CDDC 2015 as a university student. "The CDDC provided me unique beyond-the-classroom insights and hands-on experience in the field of cybersecurity. I gained knowledge and skills which are still applicable in my work today, such as in the development and deployment of applications. As a mentor, I shared the importance of cybersecurity, and also the meaningful and exciting aspects of a defence engineering career with the participants. It would be great if these experiences ignite their interest to explore a career in cyber defence and defence engineering in the future," she said.

6. Mr Tan Ah Tuan, Chairman of the CDDC 2018 Organising Committee and Director of DSTA's Cybersecurity Programme Centre, said, "The CDDC started with 100 participants in 2012 and had since grown to training 500 youths in cyber defence

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<sup>1</sup> The six countries are Estonia, Israel, Italy, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

skills and techniques. In keeping pace with the fast evolving cyber landscape, we are constantly seeking new and innovative ways to interest and challenge our participants. This year, international teams were brought in for the first time to boost competition and encourage knowledge sharing.”

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#### About Defence Science and Technology Agency

The Defence Science and Technology Agency, or DSTA in short, (国防科技局), is a statutory board set up under the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF). It implements defence technology plans, acquires defence material and develops defence infrastructure for MINDEF.

DSTA provides leading-edge technological solutions to the Singapore Armed Forces by tapping the best technologies and fostering an environment of creativity and innovation for defence applications. It also builds up a strong community of engineers and scientists from the universities, research institutes, government and industry to serve the defence needs of the nation. For more information, please visit [www.dsta.gov.sg](http://www.dsta.gov.sg).