

# Human Resource Professionals, From the Board Room to Online



**H**R Professionals have certainly come a long way, from the traditional boardroom of HR strategic discussions to the internet HRmatters21 online forum. Yes, this HR interest group has made the internet their platform where HR issues are discussed, debated upon and new strategies are formulated. Information sharing too has gone online and HRmatters21 continues to lead the way. The group started its online discussion on 5th of May 2001. Its forum discussion garners over 6 - 12 e-mails a day on the various topics of Human Resources or Management related topics. In mid 2002, it launched its website and has received more than 130,000 hits since. More features have been added to the website, with a live chat room, classifieds advertisement page and more currently, ready templates of forms and letters for the HR professionals to use for their daily operations. Over 6 sponsors, some of whom have been loyal to the interest group for more than 3 years, also support HRmatters21.

It started with just 15 members, but today HRmatters21 is the most vibrant and biggest HR online forum in Singapore. The Chairman and founder of the group Martin Gabriel said, "When I first started this group,

I never thought it would grow so fast. All we had were a handful of HR Professionals, but today we have over 3000 members, which includes some 800 members from Malaysia" Together with practicing lawyer Dilip Kumar and Director Michelle Yeo, the trio have been operating the online forum, a training institute and online advertisement through e-mail broadcast for companies that want to advertise their products and services. Martin and Dilip also provide HR consultancy which encompasses drafting employment contracts, formulating HR policies and even counseling their fellow HR peers in charting their careers. There is also legal advice for corporate clients and individuals.

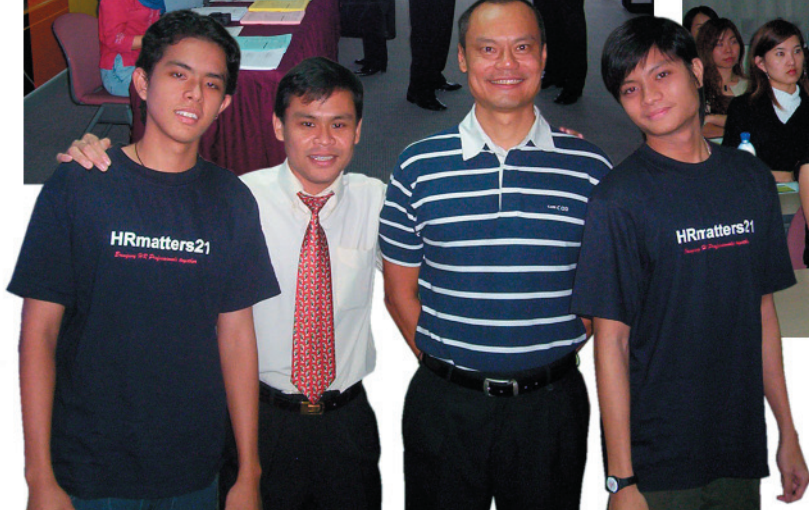
Director Michelle Yeo commented, "More than a thousand HR professionals and Managers from Non-HR function have been trained by our experienced consultants and lawyers. We are now looking at polytechnics and other Institutes that require training programmes or HR consultancy"

The Executive Committee members have also been active in other events such as participating at Career Choice 2005; its Chairman Martin Gabriel being a guest on FM news radio 93.8. Its formula in cultivating a strong bond

amongst HR professionals goes beyond online channels. Every 2 months, the group will come together for a "HR Sharing" session. Up to date, they have organised over 13 sharing sessions, with guest speaker Khoo Swee Chiow, Mr Adventure himself as their motivational speaker at the last "HR Sharing" held on 29th September. According to founding member Martin Gabriel, the face-to-face meeting helps bring HR professionals' closer together fostering friendship as well as trust. He also said that being online usually creates some doubts about the identity of a person. However with the "HR Sharing" most Members find the online discussion trustworthy and genuine as they put a face to the identity of the online identity.

HRmatters21 has certainly come a long way and will continue to forge new ways of communication and learning among the HR profession, in an ever changing landscape. This group is not just about the seriousness of work but also fostering friendship among peers of the same profession. **YC**

For more information pertaining to HRmatters21, you can visit their website at [www.hrmmatters21.net](http://www.hrmmatters21.net) e-mail to [kritsada@pacific.net.sg](mailto:kritsada@pacific.net.sg) or call 98634570.



**HRmatters21**

*Bringing HR Professionals together*