



**EMBARGOED TILL 12PM, 26 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **ISCA, YRSG and ISCOS ink MOU to empower inmates, ex-offenders and their families**

Singapore, 26 September 2024 – The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA), Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG) and Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS) signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to offer training and employment assistance to inmates, ex-offenders and their family members (“beneficiaries”), at the grand opening of Just BrewIN, ISCOS’ brand-new community space at 452 Race Course Road.

2. Under the MOU, the parties have committed to the collaborative efforts of engaging beneficiaries through workshops on essential topics such as financial literacy, career counselling and matching. This will help ease the ex-offenders’ reintegration into society. Organised by ISCA’s wide network and community members, these pro-bono workshops are aimed at providing skills for sustainable employment. While some workshops will be conducted in prisons for inmates, the sessions for ex-offenders and their families will be held at Just BrewIN.

3. In addition to the workshops, beneficiaries will be provided with career advisory services and employment opportunities to help them pursue a career in accountancy and related fields and enhance their employability.

4. **“We are very excited to partner with YRSG and ISCA. This collaboration aligns perfectly with our vision for Just BrewIN as a supportive, engaging and empowering space for ex-offenders and their loved ones,”** said Mr Tan Wee Teck, Executive Director of ISCOS.

5. **“This partnership with ISCA and ISCOS marks a significant step in our ongoing efforts to support ex-offenders and their families. By combining our expertise and resources, we can provide comprehensive support, from essential skills training to career opportunities in the accountancy sector. This collaboration embodies the spirit of community support that is crucial for successful reintegration. We believe that by working together, we can create more career pathways for ex-offenders to uplift their lives and contribute positively to society,”** said Mr Sunny Lee, CEO of YRSG.

6. At the grand opening of Just BrewIN this morning, which was graced by Guest of Honour Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, the attendees also witnessed the name reveal for Just BrewIN’s Multi-Purpose Room, officially known as **ISCA Knowledge Hub**, in conjunction with the signing of the MOU. The ISCA Knowledge Hub will be used to conduct workshops for beneficiaries by ISCA, as well as for other ISCOS-related events, such as support groups and family bonding activities.

7. **“We are excited to join this important initiative, especially in the year marking the 20th anniversary of the Yellow Ribbon Project,”** said ISCA President Mr Teo Ser Luck. **“This partnership enables us to combine our strengths to support beneficiaries in financial**

**literacy and their reintegration into society. We are dedicated to giving back by assisting current inmates and ex-offenders, and we hope our efforts will help create meaningful reintegration and a more inclusive society."**

8. Just BrewIN is the latest initiative by ISCOS, featuring a multi-level shophouse space that serves as a dynamic and inclusive hub where beneficiaries can connect with a supportive network of stakeholders. Central to this vision is an all-day café, designed not only as a welcoming place but also as a catalyst for community interaction to attract like-minded supporters.

9. The café is managed by Safari Bin Ahmad, an ISCOS Titan<sup>1</sup> with years of F&B experience. **"I never imagined having the opportunity to contribute my skills and support others in such a meaningful space. The journey of Just BrewIN has just begun and I'm eager to see how we could evolve into a place that lives up to our tagline: where hopes are brewed & lives are transformed."**

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<sup>1</sup> The Titans are selected ISCOS members (ex-offenders) who have successfully reintegrated and willing to give back by sharing their stories of transformation to inspire and engage inmates, youths at risk and members of public.

## **About the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA)**

The Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants (ISCA) is the national accountancy body of Singapore with over 36,000 ISCA members making their stride in businesses across industries in Singapore and around the world. ISCA members can be found in over 40 countries and members based out of Singapore are supported through 12 overseas chapters in 10 countries.

Established in 1963, ISCA is an advocate of the interests of the profession. Complementing its global mindset with Asian insights, ISCA leverages its regional expertise, knowledge, and networks with diverse stakeholders to contribute towards the advancement of the accountancy profession.

ISCA administers the Singapore Chartered Accountant Qualification programme and is the Designated Entity to confer the Chartered Accountant of Singapore – CA (Singapore) – designation.

ISCA is a member of Chartered Accountants Worldwide, a global family that brings together the members of leading institutes to create a community of over 1.8 million Chartered Accountants and students in more than 190 countries.

For more information, visit [www.isca.org.sg](http://www.isca.org.sg).

## **About Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)**

YRSG is a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established in 1976 as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and rebranded as YRSG on 1 May 2020.

YRSG adopts a multi-faceted approach to prepare ex-offenders for reintegration into society and re-join the national workforce. These include initiatives to help them develop skills and long-term careers through partnerships with industry, as well as initiatives to garner community support and acceptance of ex-offenders.

YRSG works with more than 7,000 like-minded partners. Our collective efforts have contributed to the low and stable recidivism rate in Singapore.

YRSG will continue to advocate for ex-offenders, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and galvanise society to uplift ex-offenders through skills and career development, co-creating opportunities for their successful reintegration and contribution back to society.

For more information, refer to YRSG's website at <http://www.yellowribbon.gov.sg>.

## **About the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS)**

Since 1989, the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society Limited (ISCOS) has been extending friendship and support to its members (ex-offenders) and their families so that they can lead meaningful and productive lives. Under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs, ISCOS is the only co-operative in Singapore that actively engages the community to help ex-offenders gain a foothold in society. More information can be found on [www.iscos.org.sg](http://www.iscos.org.sg).

ISCOS is proud to be one of the founding members of the Community Action for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Offenders (CARE) Network which organizes the annual Yellow Ribbon Project.

**Media Contacts:**

**ISCA**

**Seah Yi Qin**

Manager, Communications

Mobile: 9833 3904

Email: [yiqin.seah@isca.org.sg](mailto:yiqin.seah@isca.org.sg)

**ISCOS**

**Looi Jo-Anne**

Senior Assistant Director

Comms & External Relations

Mobile: 8233 2810

Email: [joanne@iscos.org.sg](mailto:joanne@iscos.org.sg)

**YRSG**

**Jaz Siaw**

Assistant Director

Media & Advocacy, Partnership@YR

Mobile: 9856 1884

Email: [jaz\\_siaw@yellowribbon.gov.sg](mailto:jaz_siaw@yellowribbon.gov.sg)