

**ASIA STARTUP NETWORK LAUNCHES “MAKAN FOR HOPE” FESTIVAL 2021
VENTURE CAPITALISTS AND ENTREPRENEURS UNITE
TO RAISE \$125,000 FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN SINGAPORE**

Enterprise Singapore, Vertex Ventures, Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, Helicap, Algorand Foundation, Kollektive Ventures, AngelCentral, Amasia, Golden Gate Ventures, Vickers Venture Partners, Jungle Ventures, Monk’s Hill Ventures, Openspace Ventures, Saison Capital, Grab Ventures, True Global Ventures, Hustle Fund, Tin Men Capital, Carousell, Shopback, e27, 33Capital, Open Circle, Apical Media, Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Association, BLOCK71 by NUS Enterprise, SMU IIE, RaISE SG, ACE, Wantedly, Antler, Entrepreneur First, Big Idea Ventures, Asia Institute for Mentoring are among those supporting the initiative so far.

SINGAPORE, 10 JUNE 2021, Wednesday - The startup and investment community in Southeast Asia is co-creating a first-of-its-kind “Makan for Hope Festival”, to inspire entrepreneurs through meaningful virtual dialogues over food and fundraise \$125,000 to support vulnerable communities impacted by COVID, in conjunction with Fei Yue’s 30th anniversary.

As reported in April 2020, [many of some 300,000 Singapore residents who earn below \\$2,000 have seen sudden dips in their income during the pandemic, especially after new measures on April 7 restricted businesses deemed non-essential, among other things.](#)

The Makan For Hope Festival is a series of 30 online roundtable conversations taking place over lunches or dinners from June 24th to July 30th 2021. At each session, a seasoned founder or investor will host and share best practices, experiences or industry insights with 10 entrepreneurs or aspiring founders to inspire and encourage peer learning. These hosts include CEO of Carousell, Shopback and Helicap as well as partners at Vertex Ventures, Golden Gate venturers and Monk’s Hill Ventures.

The hosts are taking the lead in raising donations by donating minimally \$1,000 while interested participants donate \$100 (early bird price) to attend one of the sessions.

"Last year, I lost my job during the pandemic and I can empathize with the deep financial impact on families and individuals. I feel encouraged by like-minded and warm hearted individuals such as my co-founder Andrew Tan, who band together to raise funds for Singapore-based charity Fei Yue. Funds raised will pay for much needed emergency funds and Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) for children with special needs and from low income families, as well as elderly living in rental flats supported by the Active Ageing Centres (AAC). “ Elise **TAN** Yee Ling, 35, co-founder Makan For Hope.

Early bird registration for Makan for Hope Festival sessions will begin on www.makanforhope.org on 10 June 2021. Aspiring entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs who are facing financial assistance may request for sponsorship. Meals for each session will be catered from social enterprises such as Soul Food and Pope Jai Thai and delivered to participants’ homes.

“I know what a privilege it is to learn from people’s experiences and that’s something we are trying to make more accessible. The idea for Makan For Hope sparked while thinking how to bring the ecosystem together and give back in different ways to create long-lasting impact. It is easy to

have goodwill in good times, but in these trying times, how we help others will make a greater difference.” - Andrew **TAN**, 35, co-founder of Makan For Hope.

“For over 30 years, Vertex has been an active participant in and a beneficiary of the Singapore start-up ecosystem. #MakanForHope initiative is one of the many programs that we have participated to give back to the ecosystem and help the disadvantaged population in Singapore.”-
- Carmen YUEN, Partner of Vertex Ventures.

“SVCA is very proud to be partnering with Makan for Hope this year. This collaboration is uniquely attuned to SVCA’s role to help bring together VC mentors, successful entrepreneurs, technology leaders and startup founders to create learning opportunities through meaningful conversations and at the same time give back to the community during this difficult period. Under SVCA Cares, we have in the past raised funds for charitable causes through auctions at our Gala Dinner. The collaboration with Makan for Hope is the first of many new initiatives that we have planned under the SVCA Cares banner for the venture and private capital industry in Singapore to give back to society beyond the role that we in any case play in fostering innovation and job and economic value creation.” - **Sanjay GUJRAL, Chairman of SVCA.**

“It is crucial that we focus on those who are deeply affected by this pandemic and provide our time, donations and heart to aid these beneficiaries in need. On behalf of the Tech community in SEA, I look forward to hosting virtual roundtable conversations to inspire and nurture future leaders in the tech and financial industry.” -- **David Z WANG, co-founder and Group CEO of Helicap.**

Timeline

- 10 June 2021: Press release (English and Chinese) and registrations open
- 16 June 2021: Fei Yue's 30th anniversary at the Salt theatre with GOH Mr. Tan Chuan Jin
- 24 June 2021: First session led by Steve Melhuish, founder of PropertyGuru and virtual opening ceremony
- 31 July 2021: Virtual closing ceremony of the Makan For Hope Festival

Your media contact

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About Makan For Hope

Makan for Hope is a non-profit initiative of Asia Startup Network. We are a community of startup founders, investors, accelerators and incubators, helping startups grow across Asia Pacific, USA and Europe. Central to our approach is the spirit of paying it forward. In 2020 we organized “Gratitude-Covid mentoring” and raised \$43,000.

<https://www.makanforhope.org>

About Fei Yue

Fei Yue is one of Singapore's largest charity organisations, supporting over 82,000 beneficiaries such as families in need, children with special needs or those coming from abusive homes, youth-at-risk, caregivers, prison inmates, couples looking to adopt, people with mental health issues and needs and the elderly.

<https://www.fyco.org>

About SVCA

The Singapore Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (SVCA) is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1992 to promote the development of the venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) industry. The association strives to promote the professional development of the industry and facilitate interaction and collaboration among its members. The association also acts as a platform for dialogue on regulatory and policy issues pertaining to VC and PE and builds linkages to centres of VC and PE activities in the region.

<https://www.svca.org.sg>