

Impress industry leaders

Gain an edge in the logistics and supply chain industry with this RMIT-SIM GE programme

MEREDITH WOO

STANDING before a panel of nine senior executives, Ms Sabrina Tan, 25, and her coursemates seemed confident, but they were actually a bundle of nerves.

After all, the Singapore Institute of Management Global Education (SIM GE) students were pitching to representatives from global logistics service provider CEVA Logistics Singapore.

If they did well, they could even score an internship position at the company — a solid addition to their resumes that would boost their employability.

They didn't have to be nervous. The team impressed the judges with their innovative ideas—such as using amphibious vehicles to provide last-mile delivery services to areas not accessible by traditional modes of transport, and also viable solutions such as using motorcycles to cope with delivery in cities with high traffic density.

Their video presentation, complete with voiceover and animation, won them the runner-up spot at the Real World Challenge (RWC) Project — a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) and CEVA Logistics—held in April this year.

In addition, Ms Tan clinched a coveted internship position at CEVA Logistics.

Says Ms Elaine Low, executive vice-president of CEVA, South East Asia: "It has certainly been a fruitful and excellent partnership so far, and we are in talks to have further collaborations.

"We are very glad that this pilot project received positive feedback from both the school and the students, and really appreciate the support we received from SIM GE and RMIT.

"Sabrina stood out among her peers at the project presentation, answering questions posed by the panel with ease and confidence.

"She was shortlisted for our internship programme as she demonstrates the qualities we are looking for: passion, willingness to learn and a positive attitude."

capable of achieving and improving supply chain operations.

"I was tasked to develop a warehouse design and layout for the assigned products — an especially enjoyable assignment as that was what triggered my interest to study this course in the first place.

"Being able to finally study something like that made it especially memorable," she says.

Returning to school to study an entirely new subject was initially difficult, says Ms Tan.

But SIM GE's extensive library resource helped her to adapt to the curriculum. Also, she was able to revise the lectures based on the recommended readings provided by the course coordinator.

The friends she made at SIM GE also played a big part in helping her to adapt. Their support made group assignments less tedious, and if she had any questions after class, they would be the first to lend a helping hand.

At SIM GE, Ms Tan widened her professional circle, with industry networking events, such as the inaugural one hosted by RMIT's

School of Business Information Technology and Logistics last year, which saw over 100 logistics professionals, alumni and students get together for an engaging evening.

Looking to the future

Ms Tan is enjoying her internship with CEVA Logistics in a sales support role in the business development team.

Her main responsibilities include assisting customers with their enquiries, requesting for and compiling data to support decision making for customers, managing shipments and billing coordination, preparing customer key performance indicators and reports.

Ms Low says: "Sabrina is now about halfway into the internship and has settled in well with her CEVA colleagues, who have given her lots of guidance while she has shown her willingness to do more."

Ms Tan graduates this month. She hopes to secure a permanent position in the company after her internship, which will end in December.



Ms Tan impressed CEVA Logistics senior executives so much, they offered her an internship. PHOTO: CHONG JUN LIANG



PHOTO: SIM GE

Levelling up

Ms Tan's interest in the logistics and supply chain industry was ignited a few years back, when she watched a Discovery Channel documentary on how products were manufactured and packaged before they reached the shelves.

"I was fascinated by the process and how much effort was being put into moving goods," she recalls.

In 2015, she left her associate engineer position to pursue the Bachelor of Business (Logistics and Supply Chain Management) awarded by RMIT University, Australia, via SIM GE.

SIM GE is the only local institute offering this RMIT course.

The chemical engineering diploma holder also had previous experience as a lab technician, but felt she needed additional skills and knowledge to stay relevant and competitive in the industry.

It may be a niche course, says Ms Tan, but it is right up her alley.

"I like to venture into specific areas; anything too generic is simply not my cup of tea," she says.

She adds that the small class size is beneficial for more student-teacher interaction.

As a former engineering student with a love for numbers, Ms Tan relished the economics and statistics modules.

One of her favourite modules was warehousing, which walked her through the workings of a warehouse and the technologies