

President's Inauguration Speech

**Management Council 2019/2020 Installation Ceremony
2 November 2019**



I am proud to be in SAAP. I am honored and humbled to be President 2019/2020, and with the help and support of my council members and you, fellow association members, I will do my best to meet the challenge.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Immediate Past President Josephine Kwan and her council for a very successful term. During her terms, IPP Jo did many things as a leader to keep SAAP active and current. She also shows her support for me as her successor and I thank her and caution her that I will be depending on her continued support throughout the year.

SAAP and earlier on, SAPES, is built through a strong community of administrative professionals. Many of you here today bear the testimony to this. Despite the disruptions by advanced technologies and changes in the economic landscape, the leaders and members remain cohesive as one association to this day, and we are talking about a span of 48 years from then to now. May I have a show of hands of those who have been members for 10 years or more? A round of applause for SAAP.

So far anyone whom I converse with about SAAP that, we are an army of secretaries and administrative support people, we run an office like any other SME, we are not paid a second salary, we come together several times a year to meet our friends and network and learn, they become curious about us, our purpose, our resilience, the why, the what and the how we do this.

Maybe you too have asked this question sometimes. Let me summarize my answers as follows:-

1. We know the importance of connections – in business, work life and even in relationships
2. We become smarter, because of what we do- because of the support role we do, we are exposed to multi-facet responsibilities and that helps us thrive in our profession
3. Because advanced technology isolated us, we then need social skills. What better way than to come together with your SAAP friends to talk to them, shake their hands, hug and be hugged, rub shoulders and have a cup of tea.
4. We need to challenge each other, to become a better version of ourselves – As peers, in challenging each other, we can become a better version of ourselves.
5. Acknowledgement from our community – You are not alone. I am not alone. We belong to this community of like-minded admins. We provide a vital support role for each other. We are like birds of the same feather, so the saying goes: Birds of the same feather flock together.

What remains important in SAAP is education. So we will use SAAP platform to create new experiences and lifelong learning for our members. Do you know that on average the shelf life of a skill set is 5 years. What we learnt 5 years ago is likely outdated today. So we look into organizing new learnings. This year, we have in the pipeline collaborations with affiliates. There will be a mix and match to create new experiences. We are looking into:

- ✧ Money Act
- ✧ Be a Montessori Educator
- ✧ Korean Day Make Up
- ✧ The Art of Decoupage
- ✧ Creative Writing
- ✧ Dining with style

Keep a look out for future bulletins for confirmations.

If you have your ideas to contribute, do write to me or look for Christina, our Programme Chairman.

I am looking forward to kick off this new term with your fervent support, active involvement to keep that sparkle in SAAP. In the meantime, stay lovely and healthy. Thank you very much.

Sim Siew Gek
President 2019/2020