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APAC startups, developers and talents embrace accelerated digitalization with Alibaba Cloud

by [CIO World Asia](#) March 24, 2022



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The cloud leader also teams-up with regional accelerators and institutions to further empower the tech community

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Alibaba Cloud, the digital technology and intelligence backbone of Alibaba Group, has launched a slew of new initiatives under Project AsiaForward (PAF) to fulfil its promises to bring learning and business opportunities for startups, developers and talents.

Alibaba Cloud has teamed up with Singapore accelerators and institutions, **including Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), Global Innovation Alliance Office (GIA) at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, User Experience Hub at ITE College Central and Entrepreneurial Partnership & Innovation Community (EPIC) at Republic Polytechnic** to bring practical guidance to local startups. Other regional accelerators working with Alibaba Cloud includes **Handspprofit (Malaysia)** and **Sunwah Innovation Center (Vietnam)**.



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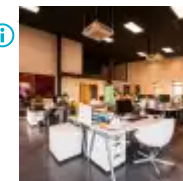
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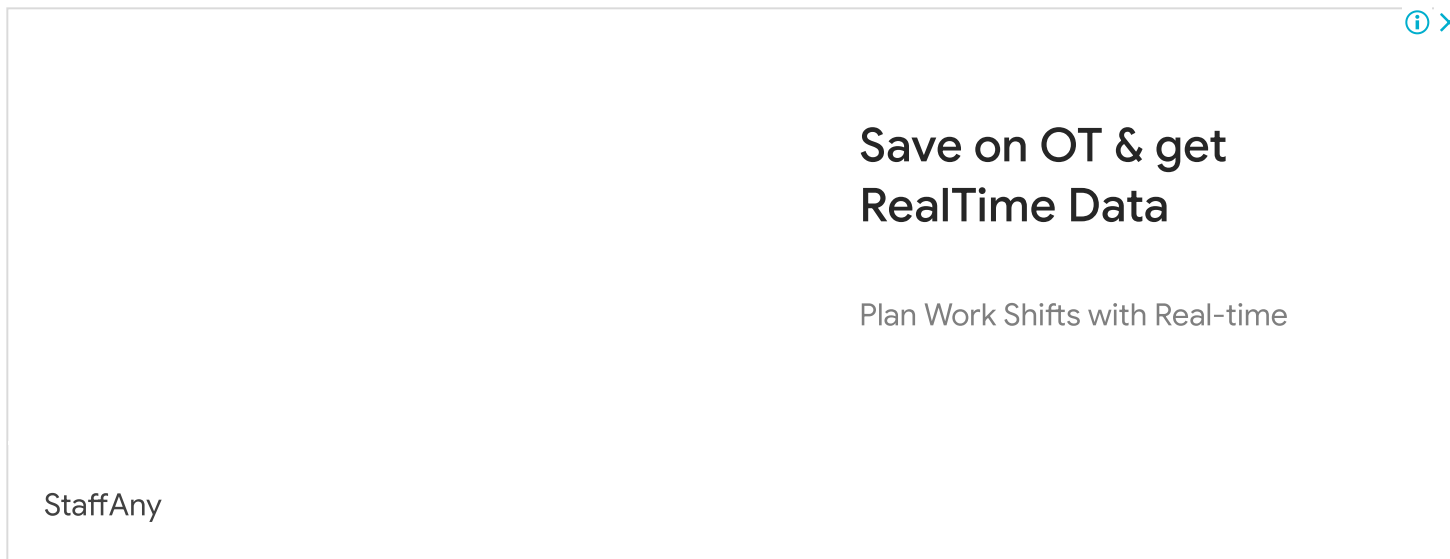
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Talents have been an integral part of the project, and after seeing success of the company's training programs last year, PAF will roll out more learning opportunities for talents and startups including **open office hour with venture capitalists (VC)** to guide them on business issues, **technology workshops** to offer participants insights on digitalization tools, and **business intelligence webinars** to pass on the latest industry trends to attendees. Since its launch last year, more than 600,000 talents, 14,000 developers, and 850 startups has participated in the project. Many of them have leveraged PAF to showcase their business success, and gained exposure to interact with potential customers and partners.

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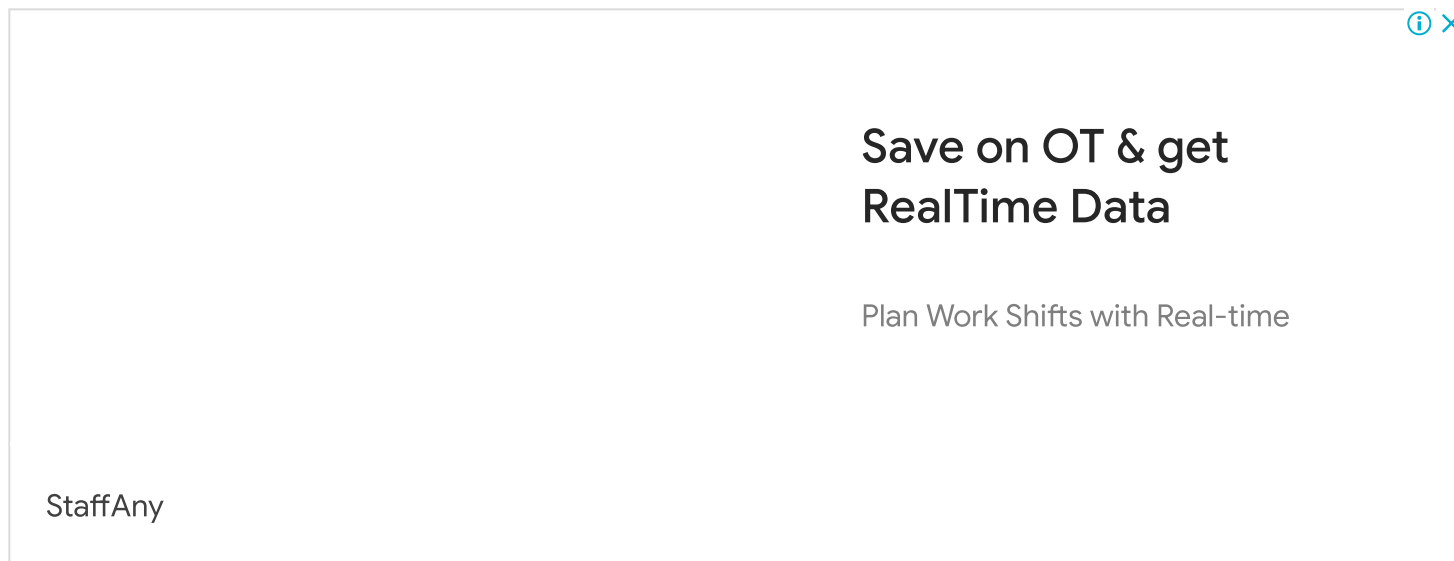
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Under the project, Alibaba Cloud is also aiming to create a meeting place, gallery, club, and workspace via Inno8 in the Sandbox for developers to interact with Alibaba Cloud.

“The interest of so many cutting-edge startups in our events signals the momentum of technological innovation in Singapore and across the APAC region. Project AsiaForward is designed to channel this energy to provide more opportunities for networking and talent development. We look forward to building upon this progress and delivering even more value in the year ahead,” **said Derek Wang, Singapore General Manager, Alibaba Cloud Intelligence.**



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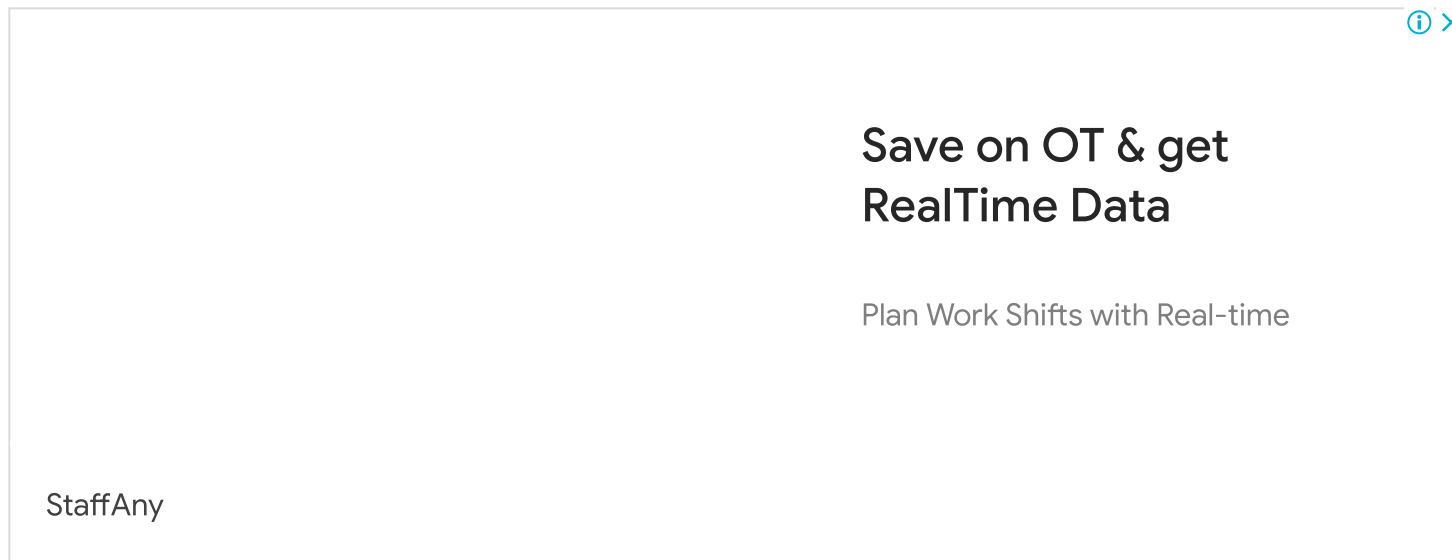
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A total of 6 finalists made it to the Singapore Demo Day. They are:

[AiTreat](#) which designs and integrates assistive medical robots to help doctors and physicians with providing soft tissue therapeutic treatment to patients.

[CloudSeq](#) provides cloud-based bioinformatics and next-generation sequencing services. Its proprietary bio-data analysis platform hosts bioinformatics and sequencing solutions that makes projects easy to run and manage, without the need for expensive instruments or computer hardware.

A screenshot of a StaffAny advertisement. The main headline reads "Save on OT & get RealTime Data". Below it, the sub-headline says "Plan Work Shifts with Real-time". In the bottom left corner, the StaffAny logo is visible. In the top right corner, there are small icons for information and close.

[ProfilePrint](#) is a food ingredient search engine platform powered by a patented AI fingerprint technology. The company synthesizes complex interrelated parameters and sensory data into a single digital fingerprint, rapidly predicting the quality and profile of a food sample within seconds.

[Protos Labs](#) is a cybersecurity startup that helps insurers, re-insurers, and enterprises quantify cyber risk exposure using an AI-driven risk quantification platform, Nexus.

Vicuna created a flagship product called Scholaebot, a recommendation and generation engine that creates gamified worksheets to encourage student learning.

Zeemart is a food and beverage procurement platform that connects buyers and suppliers to make discovery, purchasing, and communication easier through a simple interface.

As finalists, these startups can receive vouchers, technical support from Alibaba Cloud as well as exposure to regional VCs for potential investment opportunities. Since the launch of PAF last year, Alibaba Cloud has committed an initial USD1 billion funding and resources to cultivate a million-strong digital talent pool, empower 100,000 developers, and support the growth of 100,000 technology startups in Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

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