$2,000 grant to establish the Postgraduate Industry Linkage Program

The Chemical Engineering Postgraduate Association (CEPA) at Monash University is pleased to announce that it has won $2,000 from the Office of the Vice-Provost (Learning and Teaching) to establish the Postgraduate Industry Linkage Program (PILP). The grant was funded by the Better Teaching, Better Learning Student Bursaries Scheme for individuals or teams whose projects were deemed to significantly enhance the student academic experience.

Currently, there is a lack of industry engagement with potential employers for our postgraduate students. With our research indicating that 84% of postgraduates being worried about finding employment and 76% willing to set aside time to visit potential employers, industry engagement is needed to enhance their academic experience. Internal research also indicated that 97% of students would be interested in a networking skills seminar.

The Postgraduate Industry Linkage Program, the first of its kind within the department of chemical engineering, aims to enhance the student academic experience via soft skill development and industry engagement. A specialised soft skill development seminar will equip students with the skills and confidence required to network successfully. Industry engagement will be facilitated through company site visits. Two companies from different industries will be targeted to highlight the diverse range of employment opportunities available to master's and PhD students. Furthermore, this will provide students with an opportunity to connect with industry representatives by networking in a real setting. Contacts with industry representatives will give students a competitive advantage when applying for graduate employment. This project has the potential to serve as a flagship program for other departments to follow.

Planning for the program is currently under way.
The PILP development team (left to right): Paurnami Chandran, Baiqian Dai, Teck Kwang Choo, Martin Foerster, Peter Tsirikis (project leader), Sally Yue. Biao Kong (not present). Photography courtesy of Jiahan Chew.