

## **Staying Relevant to your Alumni Community and learning from best practices**

Mr Mohan Balagopal, President of Alumni International Singapore, President of British Alumni (Singapore), Chairperson of Alumni Relations Sub-Committee and Management Committee Member of the National University of Singapore Society

Singapore has a unique mix of foreign and local graduates and consequently a unique mix of foreign and local Alumni Associations. While it could be assumed that the local universities have an easier time connecting and relating to their alumni, there are a number of overseas alumni associations that have been successful in engaging their far-flung alumni, despite the geographical separation and differing time zones.

It is important to recognise that some countries are culturally and historically predisposed to maintaining good alumni links, while economic benefits may be the driving force for others.

Mohan will share some of the observations and best practices that successful alumni associations employ to connect and stay relevant to their graduates.

### **Biodata-Mohan Balagopal**

Mohan Balagopal the current President of the Alumni International Singapore, an umbrella organisation of 14 local and overseas University Alumni Associations, which has a combined membership of around 25,000 Singapore-based graduates. He is also the President of the British Alumni (Singapore), an association of UK graduates with strong links with the British Council, British High Commission and British Chamber of Commerce. Mohan is also a Committee Member of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) and chairs their Alumni Relations and Media & Editorial sub-committees.

Mohan Balagopal is an experienced Logistician and a Chartered Member (CMILT) of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Singapore. He has a BEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from NUS and MSc in Industrial Robotics & Automation from Imperial College, and has been conferred the Certified Professional Logistician (CPL) title.

He has 20 years of Logistics and Supply Chain experience which includes designing and commissioning of automated Material Handling equipment, a Warehouse Management System (WMS) and setting up of Regional Distribution Centres in Thailand, India and Korea. He subsequently worked for a couple of third party logistics companies (3PLs), before moving into the Executive Search industry. He is currently the Regional Director of Gary & Pearl International Pte Ltd, a recruitment consultancy that focuses on placements of technical professionals.