Annex 4:

From Stretch Therapist to Generative AI Engineer: Royce's Inspiring Career Transformation

1. Royce's career path has been anything but conventional. Starting as a stretch therapist in the Sports & Wellness industry, he became increasingly drawn to technology and innovation, eventually landing a role as Generative AI Engineer with SAP Singapore's Centre of Excellence team.

2. Initially pursuing a diploma in Aviation due to his strong O-Level results, Royce soon realised that a corporate-focused career in aviation did not resonate with his aspirations. He reflects, "After three years of studying, I realised that the opportunities within the aviation industry weren't the right fit for me. I wanted to create things and take pride in the impact they could have." This revelation marked a turning point in his journey.

3. While working as a stretch therapist, Royce developed an interest in tech and started learning programming independently. That landed him some freelance web development opportunities where he was able to earn some extra side income, and eventually, a traineeship at a local start-up. Thereafter, he joined the Google Skills Ignition Traineeship Programme supported by IMDA, where trainees will undergo a 12-month full-time training programme comprising three months of external training and nine months of on-the-job training at Google Singapore. The programme also provided invaluable career-readiness training, which empowered him to proactively reach out to a hiring manager about a job posting, ultimately resulting in his current position as a Generative AI Engineer at SAP.

4. Reflecting on his journey, Royce acknowledges the challenges of switching careers: "It can be daunting and intimidating, as it affects not only yourself but also those around you." He emphasised the importance of mentorship and community support, noting how programmes like Skills Ignition SG Traineeship have shaped his path.

5. His advice for others considering a career shift is straightforward: "Take that initial step towards change and make the most of your current resources. I didn't foresee myself becoming a Generative AI Engineer from the outset, and I don't believe anyone can predict their entire career path. However, I firmly believe that by adapting to evolving circumstances and giving your best effort, things will fall into place over time."

6. Royce's story exemplifies the power of self-discovery and adaptability. From a stretch therapist to a Generative AI Engineer, his journey underscores that career paths are not always linear.