GS1 Singapore held a half-day networking session for their members on 28 August 2015. Over the course of the afternoon, members were introduced to GS1 Singapore and were given an insight into some of the emerging trends, technologies to drive sustainability and innovation, and also funding schemes available for them to tap upon. Held at HP Centre on 28 August, the session saw a turnout of almost 40 participants from over 30 companies.

Kick starting the session was Mr. Ramesh Arivalan, Membership Manager of GS1 Singapore, who introduced some membership services and activities of GS1. "To make certain that there is one standard which every industry is able to use and everyone is able to comply to one standard, hence their name – Global Standards 1," he said on the function of GS1. On the relevance of Standards, "it is to ensure that everyone speaks the same language, whether it is partners, traders or retailers" said Mr. Arivalan.

Mr. John Lau, Industry Engagement Senior Manager of GS1 Singapore, gave an overview of GS1 Standards' comprehensive usage in industries and their supply chain before delving into their offerings, such as the Solution Partner Programme (SPP). "SPP is a unique and rewarding programme that facilitates the implementation of GS1 Standards and solutions. It connects user companies with proven solution providers that can deliver services and solutions that enable quick, efficient, and accurate standards and solutions implementation," he said. This is beneficial for companies looking into solutions aligned with GS1 Standards to enhance their workflow processes. On the significance of GS1 Standards on business, Mr. Lau added that it improves productivity by the means of scaling down manpower and costs, amongst other benefits.

Mr. Lau also expounded on the funding in place for GS1 barcode and RFID projects.

Speaker, Ms. Rozana Bt. Ellias, AP Solution Product Manager of HP Singapore was also present to address the new style of retail point of sales – from traditional to mobile point of sales. "We do not just sell mobile point of sale, we also sell the traditional point of sale such as machines," she said. She also shared that they have also collaborated with Zeno Singapore (another solution provider) by

providing the hardware to create solutions which they showcased that day. Her colleague, Mr. Roy Low, Business Development Manager, Printing and Personal Systems, HP Singapore Pte Ltd, then demonstrated some solutions they provide, also sharing some real life examples of how solutions can be adopted in everyday business activities.

Mr. Roy sharing an example of 'queue busting' – a means of increasing productivity

Speaking to Mr Lem Han Keong from Eligo Pte Ltd Singapore, a member company of GS1 Singapore, he shared that being a trading company, his purpose at the session was to see if there are ways of improving the operation of their inventory management using technology. "We are looking into warehouse management solutions in order to eliminate errors and cut down on the manpower and increase productivity. What we are doing now is very conventional and we are looking to step up our business processes," said Mr. Lem.

Finding the session helpful, he, like many other participants, were waiting to speak to speakers and staff of GS1 Singapore to learn more about the solutions he can apply to his companies inventories, and means of how GS1 Singapore could further assist them in their business activities.

Participants getting a feel of the solutions presented in the showroom

The session concluded with a showroom visit where participants were treated to hands-on demonstrations of solutions being presented that afternoon. Not only did they talk to solutions providers and expert professionals of the field, they had a chance to interact and network amongst each other, drawing the session to a fruitful closure.