

## Institutions join forces to uplift the Training and Adult Education sector

*The collaboration will strengthen the TAE sector, and enable the Institute for Adult Learning, and the partner TAE institutions, to combine their expertise and deepen our national capability to deliver high quality adult learning.*

**SINGAPORE, 5 July 2022** – The Training and Adult Education (TAE) sector is set to be given a boost, as institutions unite to elevate the quality of Continuing Education and Training (CET) provision, and better support the workforce in adapting to the changing needs of the economy. The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL), an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), and SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) today inked two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with NTUC LearningHub and Singapore’s five polytechnics. The signing ceremony is held at the SkillsFuture Forum, which is the opening event of the SkillsFuture Festival 2022.

Guest-of-Honour Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing, graced the event at the Lifelong Learning Institute.

The partnerships forged today will enable IAL and its key partners to better drive the professionalisation and continuous upskilling of our adult educators. Professionals in the TAE sector can look forward to higher quality and industry responsive training, that raises the learning experience and learning effectiveness for all adult learners in Singapore. Specific areas of collaboration will include IAL-polytechnic staff interactions and exchanges, strengthened synergy with SUSS, digital transformation in CET delivery with technology companies, industry-recognised accreditation, and the scaling up of NTUC LearningHub’s Career Agility Hub (CAH).

Mr Tan Kok Yam, Chief Executive of SSG and Chairman of IAL Council, said, “Adult educators are key to the delivery of effective and high quality adult learning. They prepare our workforce with the skills and competencies to achieve career goals, and to thrive amid uncertainty. IAL, our polytechnics and NTUC LearningHub will now join forces to ‘upskill our upskillers’. We invite all our adult educators and institutions to join us in this endeavour.”

Professor Lee Wing On, IAL’s Executive Director, said, “The deep embeddedness of training and education institutes within the industry is crucial for long-term growth and prosperity. With the digital revolution accelerating, remote working becoming commonplace, supply chain networks restructuring, and the resulting skills gap and talent imbalance, it is imperative that we act promptly, and IAL as the key institute for adult learning, together with our partners, seeks to fulfil that role. As an organisation that has espoused these values since its founding, we at IAL are looking forward to the prospects of this symbiotic collaboration between IAL, the



polytechnics, NTUC LearningHub and SkillsFuture Singapore, complemented with initiatives that ensure quality and efficiency that will enable us to go far together.”

### **Deepening links between the academia and the TAE sector**

This landmark agreement between IAL, SkillsFuture Singapore and Singapore's five polytechnics, namely, Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic, is the first time these parties have come together to collaborate in the CET space. The intent is to synergise IAL's expertise in adult learning with the polytechnics' institutional capabilities in education and industry outreach. Specifically, a community of practice (COP) will facilitate exchanges and sharing of best practices between teaching staff, adult educators (AE), and adjunct educators of polytechnics. In addition, the agreement will involve the curation, development, and delivery of industry-relevant TAE programmes, as well as short-term two-way attachments between IAL and the polytechnics, amongst other collaborative initiatives.

Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal and CEO, Nanyang Polytechnic, said, “This collaboration will help enhance the Teaching & Learning expertise of adult educators in the Training and Adult Education (TAE) sector in Singapore. The polytechnics play a significant role in training Singapore's workforce to meet the current and emerging demands of the workplace. With this partnership, educators will now have an additional avenue to share best practices with the TAE community and adapt these learnings in their curriculum delivery to better prepare learners for the workplace of the future.”

Mr Lim Kok Kiang, Principal and CEO, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, said “We are pleased to partner IAL to provide a platform that brings our academic staff together to exchange andragogical know-how, best practices, and ideas to enhance the adult learning experience. Fostering an active and collaborative community of adult educators with diverse capabilities, experiences and perspectives can help to further raise the quality and spark new possibilities and innovative solutions for an expanding adult learning sector.”

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal and CEO, Republic Polytechnic, said, “This partnership will foster a strong culture of professional collaboration and pedagogical excellence across the institutes of higher learning, and further enhance the standing and quality of training and adult education in Singapore. It will play an important role in the co-construction of knowledge amongst the educators as they learn from each other, with each other and through each other. The establishment of a community of practice will be an enabler for educators to share pedagogical knowledge and collectively advance the lifelong learning cause”



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Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal and CEO, Singapore Polytechnic, said, “As digital transformation and globalisation accelerate changes in how we live, learn and work, the workforce needs to update their knowledge, skills and competencies to bridge the gap between their education and training, and the demands of a rapidly evolving economy. Through the signing of this MOU, Singapore Polytechnic hopes to entrust our adult educators with the ability to align curricula design and content with in-demand jobs and skills to successfully supplement the talent pool of today and the future.”

Mr. Peter Lam, Principal and CEO, Temasek Polytechnic said, “This collaboration is a good opportunity for SSG, SUSS-IAL and the polytechnics to work together in the area of adult education. Temasek Polytechnic is excited to see how we can enhance our contribution to the growing Training and Adult Education sector in Singapore, through various communities of practices and partnerships. Through this partnership, we look forward to deepen cross-institutional staff exchanges, and further build up capabilities in the training and development of adult educators as well as research in adult learning methods.”

### **Scaling up the workforce of the future**

In this second agreement, IAL, NTUC LearningHub, and SkillsFuture Singapore will collaborate to build AEs' domain and andragogical skills at scale, provide opportunities for continuing professional development, and establish the NTUC LearningHub's CAH as a platform for the community of adult education practitioners to build up their skills and careers portfolio. The joint effort to strengthen the CAH will better enable IAL to aggregate the skills needs of AEs and AE freelancers, and train them for market readiness based on their job profiles and skills gaps.

Mr Jeremy Ong, Chief Executive Officer of NTUC LearningHub, said, “We take pride in being at the heart of Singapore's lifelong learning culture, and that means never resting on our laurels in all aspects of our training solutions. To deliver world-class training to the Singapore workforce, it is paramount that we constantly develop and enhance the capabilities of our adult educators and trainers by placing importance on their professional development. The signing of the MOU provides NTUC LearningHub with a new impetus to raise the bar even higher on the quality of our adult training andragogy and trainers and to explore new areas of cooperation that address shared industry priorities and interests of the TAE sector. We are also excited to pilot our Career Agility Hub app to serve as a bridge for adult educators and their career goals through skills gap analyses and career recommendations.”

### **Enclosure:**

Annex A: Factsheet About the Career Agility Hub by NTUC LearningHub

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## About the Institute for Adult Learning

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) is an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences. IAL works closely and supports Adult Education professionals, businesses, human resource developers and policy makers through its comprehensive suite of programmes and services on raising capabilities and catalysing innovations in Continuing Education and Training (CET). IAL also champions research in sustaining economic performance through skills, shaping employment as well as CET decisions, and develops innovations through learning technology and pedagogy to heighten adult learning. For more information, visit [www.ial.edu.sg](http://www.ial.edu.sg).

## About SkillsFuture Singapore

SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) drives and coordinates the implementation of the national SkillsFuture movement, promotes a culture of lifelong learning and strengthens the ecosystem of training and adult education in Singapore. Through a holistic suite of national SkillsFuture initiatives, SSG enables Singaporeans to take charge of their learning journey in their pursuit of skills mastery. SSG also works with key stakeholders to ensure that students and adults have access to high quality and industry-relevant training that meet the demands of different sectors of the economy for an innovative and productive workforce. For more information, visit [www.ssg.gov.sg](http://www.ssg.gov.sg).



## About NTUC LearningHub

NTUC LearningHub is the leading Continuing Education and Training provider in Singapore which aims to transform the lifelong employability of working people. Since our corporatisation in 2004, we have been working with employers and individual learners to provide learning solutions in areas such as Cloud, Infocomm Technology, Healthcare, Employability & Literacy, Business Excellence, Workplace Safety & Health, Security, Human Resources and Foreign Worker Training.

To date, NTUC LearningHub has helped over 26,000 organisations and achieved more than 2.6 million training places across more than 2,900 courses with a pool of about 900 certified trainers. As a Total Learning Solutions provider to organisations, we also forge partnerships to offer a wide range of relevant end-to-end training. Besides in-person training, we also offer instructor-led virtual live classes (VLCs) and asynchronous online learning. The NTUC LearningHub Learning eXperience Platform (LXP) — a one-stop online learning mobile application — offers timely, bite-sized and quality content for learners to upskill anytime and anywhere. Beyond learning, LXP also serves as a platform for jobs and skills development for both workers and companies. For more information, visit [www.ntuclearninghub.com](http://www.ntuclearninghub.com).

## About Nanyang Polytechnic

Established as an institution of higher learning in 1992, Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) academic schools offer quality education and training through 40 full-time diploma courses and common entry programmes. NYP also has a full suite of Continuing Education and Training (CET) options for lifelong learning, ranging from specialist and advanced diplomas to SkillsFuture-supported modules and courses. NYP's Asian Culinary Institute Singapore and the Singapore Institute of Retail Studies are CET institutes set up in partnership with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) to champion and transform Singapore's F&B and retail sectors respectively. A third NYP CET institute - the National Centre of Excellence for Workplace Learning - also set up in collaboration with SSG, will spearhead the development of progressive workplace learning strategies and programmes for companies here. For more information, visit [www.nyp.edu.sg](http://www.nyp.edu.sg)

## About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with over 13,000 enrolled students and an alumni network of more than 160,000. The polytechnic offers more than 40 full-time courses through its 9 academic schools in Business & Accountancy, Design & Environment, Engineering, Film & Media Studies, Health Sciences, Humanities & Social Sciences, Infocomm Technology, Life Sciences & Chemical Technology, and Interdisciplinary Studies. It seeks to develop students with a passion for





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learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace. The polytechnic also supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy, which offers a wide range of part-time programmes and short courses. It works closely with industry partners to curate programmes to develop talent pipeline for the industries and help adult learners stay agile in today's rapidly changing global economy. For more information, visit [www.np.edu.sg](http://www.np.edu.sg)

### **About Republic Polytechnic**

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage the Problem-based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has seven schools and one academic centre offering 36 full-time diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

RP is committed to nurturing professionals with strong problem-solving capabilities through an innovative and entrepreneurial learning environment, based on a holistic and industry-relevant curriculum. RP's Academy for Continuing Education also offers a comprehensive suite of lifelong learning programmes to provide adult learners with skills upgrading opportunities. For more information, visit [www.rp.edu.sg](http://www.rp.edu.sg)

### **About Singapore Polytechnic**

Established in 1954, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is Singapore's first polytechnic. It has 10 schools that offer 30 full-time diploma courses and three common entry programmes for more than 13,500 students. SP adopts a proven creative teaching and learning framework and offers students a holistic, authentic and industry-relevant curriculum, innovative and vibrant learning spaces, and enriching overseas programmes.

The Polytechnic is committed to producing competent and versatile graduates who are also imbued with sound values, so that they can be work ready, life ready and world ready. SP has more than 223,000 graduates and among them are successful entrepreneurs, top executives in multi-national and public-listed corporations, and well-known professionals across various industries and leaders in government.

SP clinched the inaugural ASEAN People's Award in 2015 for its contributions toward the region's community-building efforts. SP is also the first polytechnic to be awarded the President's Award for the Environment in 2010 and the President's Social Service Award in 2011.

For more information on Singapore Polytechnic, please visit [www.sp.edu.sg](http://www.sp.edu.sg).



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Follow SP on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/singaporepolytechnic/> and Twitter and Instagram at @singaporepoly.

## About Temasek Polytechnic

Established in 1990, TP is one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Currently, it offers 36 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 40 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment. The polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These ensure that TP graduates are ready for work or further studies, and to contribute meaningfully to the community. For more information, please visit [www.tp.edu.sg](http://www.tp.edu.sg)



## Annex A

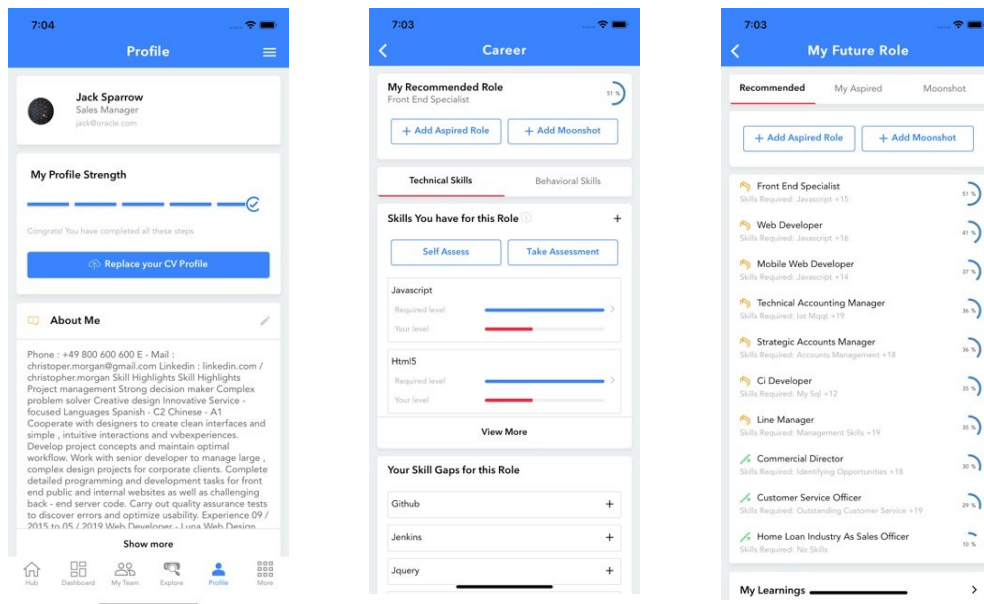
### About the Career Agility Hub by NTUC LearningHub



An initiative by NTUC LearningHub

An initiative of the NTUC LearningHub, and in partnership with Tech Talent Assembly (TTAB), the Career Agility Hub (CAH) app was developed to support users in their career development and upskilling journeys. Powered by Artificial Intelligence, the app helps users uncover gaps between their current skill set and career goals by providing insights into the top skills they need to stand ready for the future.

Users will get customised and actionable upskilling recommendations according to their skills, experience, and interests and to help them explore available training and career opportunities. They can also be part of a community of like-minded individuals and mentors to share knowledge and network while working towards exploring various career paths to fulfil their aspirations.



The CAH app is available for download via Apple App Store and Google Play Store. More information on the app is available at [www.ntuclearninghub.com/future-ready-workforce](http://www.ntuclearninghub.com/future-ready-workforce).