

RP's Journey in Certifying for TR19

The Technical Reference (TR) 19 for Business Continuity Management was prepared by the Technical Committee (TC) on Business Continuity Management (BCM) under the purview of the Management Systems Standards Committee (MSSC). The development of this TR was initiated by Singapore Business Federation, the Economic Development Board and SPRING Singapore with the objective of providing a framework for companies to implement preventive measures to remain resilient in their business operations in today's environment amidst security and other concerns and their impact on businesses.

The primary focus of this TR is on continuity management and recovery of critical business operations. This includes preventive measures (like risk reduction and mitigation — encompassing physical and IT security), methodologies and processes to implement disaster recovery planning, business continuity planning, emergency response and management, crisis communications management, supply chain coordination and cooperation with industry and public authorities.

The Republic Polytechnic is the first educational institution in Singapore to be certified to the TR19. The TR19 framework provided RP with a useful reference model to develop a robust set of business continuity plans and strategies for it to continue to provide education to its students during a crisis or disaster. The project was started in 2006 when RP first shifted to its new campus in Woodlands and covers all the key departments which deliver services directly or indirectly to enable the delivery of education to its students. With the certification, staff and partners of RP are better aware of the potential risks faced by the organisation and are better prepared to deal with any probable disaster that could occur and disrupt its business operations.