



PRESS RELEASE

IBM and Republic Polytechnic to Groom Mainframe Professionals in ASEAN

Republic Polytechnic to be first authorized IBM IHL partner to offer professional programme for developing local and regional talent in mainframe technology

Singapore – July 27, 2010 – IBM (NYSE: IBM) and Republic Polytechnic (RP), today announced an agreement that makes the institution the first IBM Authorised Training Partner in ASEAN to offer professional certification and training on mainframe technology in Singapore and the region. This professional programme, slated to debut in the fourth quarter of the year, marks the first time IBM Singapore is collaborating with an institute of higher learning (IHL) to offer mainframe expertise training to professionals.

This agreement builds on existing partnerships between IBM and RP, which together have invested a total of S\$6.3 million in the RP Enterprise Computing Learning Centre – including provision of training by IBM on the System z curriculum, materials and resources and collaboration opportunities with Mainframe end users. As part of the System z Worldwide Academic Initiative Program, RP is already among the 266 global community colleges and universities that offer training in mainframe technology. The latest agreement makes RP the first IHL in ASEAN to offer courses in z/OS environment for industry professionals.

Ms. Phong Taylor, Director of Systems & Technology Group, IBM ASEAN said: “This new academic programme is focused on investing in the skills and talents of industry professionals who recognize the importance of mainframe technology, particularly for those in the banking and research industries. We are pleased at this continued partnership with RP in creating new talent and local expertise in mainframe technology for our increasingly globalized economy.”

Mr Fong Yew Chan, RP’s Director of School of Information and Communications Technology said: “As key sectors such as banking and research continue to grow, we expect to see an increased demand for IT professionals who are trained in mainframe technologies. RP is truly proud to be the only provider in ASEAN of IBM’s mainframe training. We believe this MOU will take us to a new level of collaboration with IBM, and fully expect that this continued partnership will benefit both our graduates as well as industry professionals from Singapore and the region.”

A recent IDC survey of 300 end users showed that nearly one-half of respondents indicated they plan to increase annual spending on mainframe hardware and software. Mainframe is still seen by respondents as a key element of centrally managed corporate data and high value computing workloads by providing them with a layer of highly controllable enterprise management software.

Co-inciding with this announcement, today, IBM announced the zEnterprise mainframe server and a new systems architecture in which workloads on mainframe, POWER7 and x86 systems can share resources and be managed as a single, virtualized system. Again, demonstrating IBM’s value and innovation in technology, the new mainframe is also the most powerful and energy-efficient mainframe ever. Developed at a cost of US\$1.5 billion in research and development, as well as more than three years of collaboration with some of IBM’s top clients around the world, this new mainframe represents the most significant new architecture in the last 20 years, and one of the most important in nearly 50 years of IBM mainframes.

IBM also demonstrated its ongoing commitment and investments in workload-optimized systems when it opened its first S\$90 million, 365,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Singapore this



past May. Its fourth systems site to open in the last six months, the IBM Singapore Technology Park serves as IBM's manufacturing and fulfillment center for IBM's mainframes and high-end systems for clients across Asia, Africa and Europe

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About IBM

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About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to adopt the Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and one centre offering 34 courses in Information and Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health and Leisure, Events and Hospitality, and Culture and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovative, entrepreneurial and cultured professionals in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and a life-long learning attitude. Since its establishment in 2002, the institution has been awarded various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, TR19, People Developer Standards, Singapore Quality Class and Singapore Innovation Class, demonstrating an ongoing focus on excellence. For more information, visit <http://www.rp.sg>

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