

NEWS RELEASE

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Local polytechnics collaborate with Institute of National Colleges of Technology of Japan on technology education

Cross-border MOU to be signed at International Symposium on Advances in Technology Education (ISATE)

On 27 September 2011, Republic Polytechnic (RP) will host the International Symposium on Advances in Technology Education (ISATE) opening ceremony at The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC) at Republic Polytechnic. In its fifth year, ISATE is an annual event hosted in alternation by the various local polytechnics and Japanese colleges.

This year's symposium will see a MOU signing between all polytechnics in Singapore and the Institute of National Colleges of Technology (INCT) of Japan – a first. Through this MOU, there will be student and staff exchanges between the polytechnics and INCT. This includes visits by local polytechnic students to Japan to learn more about robotics and Robocode (robotic software programming) and *vice versa*.

ISATE 2011 aims to kick-start international collaborations and help more remain relevant as educational researchers in a rapidly developing world. This coming together of institutions of higher learning will be an opportunity to consider what can be done by the international community to identify initiatives in education that will drive sustainability through technology innovation.

A strong delegation of over 70 Japanese educational researchers will be present at the symposium, which will be officiated by Guest of Honour – His Excellency Ambassador Mr Yoichi Suzuki, Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Mr Masato Kitani, Executive Director, Institute of National Colleges of Technology (INCT), Principals of all polytechnics will also attend, along with keynote speaker Mr Kiyofumi Kusaka, CEO, NEC Asia Pacific.

"ISATE 2011 is an excellent platform to share best practice in education across institutions from the two countries while promoting the common goal of education in technology. The collaboration with INCT will be a valuable exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as an acknowledgement that solutions for many global issues lie in harnessing technology effectively," said Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal and CEO of Republic Polytechnic.

"In the latter part of the 20th century, science and technology brought about rapid progress in human activities through the development of industry and economy, but at the same time, a large distortion appeared in many aspects of our lives. Today, human beings face many serious global problems, such as environmental, energy and resources, population, and food supply problems," said President of INCT, Dr Yujiro Hayashi. "At the symposium, we will discuss what our positions are as educational researchers, as well as start concrete activities in order to accomplish our goals."

This symposium sees a record of 85 paper presentations via four concurrent tracks, as well as a variety of workshops and poster presentations by local polytechnics and Japanese colleges' staff and students over 3 days (27-29 September).

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About Republic Polytechnic (www.rp.edu.sg)

Republic Polytechnic (RP) is the first educational institution in Singapore to embrace a Problem-Based Learning approach to nurture innovation and entrepreneurial learning, develop problem-solving process skills and a life-long learning attitude in its students. RP has six schools and one centre, offering 36 courses in Infocomm Technology and Interactive Digital Media, Engineering, Applied Science, Arts, Design and New Media, Sports, Health and Leisure, Events and Hospitality, and Culture and Communication. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive processes, coupled with its engaging and fulfilling campus life outside the classroom including more than 100 extra-mural interest groups across community service, sports, music, art and dance ensures students are ready to play an active and meaningful role in society.

RP's Centre for Professional development also offers Continuing Education & Training programmes at the certificate and diploma level which are designed to help working adults upgrade their work skills or prepare for career transitions.

RP strives for excellence both in its students and as an institution, and has achieved various international and national accreditations, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, SS540, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class. For more information, visit www.rp.sg.

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