



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

Planting a Better Future

Republic Polytechnic supports “Together We Grow” initiative which will see 100 trees donated to Singapore schools

Republic Polytechnic (RP) together with Merck Pte Ltd, Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL), Bioforest Pte Ltd and Singapore Environment Council (SEC) will be presenting 100 local-made trees to various national and international schools in Singapore through the initiative, “Together We Grow”.

From Lab to Land

A total of 100 multi-purpose forest trees of the species ‘White teak’ (*Gmelina arborea*) will be donated to 100 schools such as, Peirce Secondary School, Siglap Secondary School, St Hilda’s Secondary School and Global Indian International School to name a few, in conjunction of the United Nation’s 2011 theme; International Year of Forests. These trees are locally produced from the high-tech laboratories of TLL.

These fast growing tropical trees are tolerant to hot and dry spells and can grow in wastelands which make them ideal for reforestation and sustainable timber plantation.

Educational Tree

Apart from providing shade and beauty to the schools, the trees, which combine the wonders of science and environmental protection will also serve as an educational tool as students learn about the



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

measures and steps taken for tree plantation and maintenance. The schools will be planting the trees on May 22, 2011, which is designated as the International Day for Biological Diversity, a global campaign which aims to plant a billion trees globally.

The first-time collaboration of the various sectors – industry, social, education and research and development – is a milestone in RP's School of Applied Sciences' efforts to engage secondary school students with their scientific programmes. The "Together We Grow" initiative also highlights the advancements of research and development efforts in environmental awareness, aimed at educating the students in Singapore.

The presentation of the trees will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at Republic Polytechnic outside the Aquaculture Centre where keynote speakers from the five organizations, Dr Amy Choong (RP), Dr Somika Bhatanagar (TLL), Mr. Joe Lim (SEC) and Mr. Philip Behnke (Merck), will share their insights and tips on environmental protection and tree plantation.



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

About Merck

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 9.3 billion in 2010, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approximately 40,000 employees in 67 countries. Merck Pte Ltd Singapore was established 1995. More than 200 employees are handling sales, marketing, relationship management and logistics for the Singaporean customers of the four departments: Merck Millipore, Performace Materials, Merck Serono, and Consumer Healthcare. More information at www.merck.com.sg.

About Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory

Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) is a beneficiary of the Temasek Trust and was established in 2002 to undertake cutting-edge research in molecular biology and genetics utilizing a broad range of model organisms. Our vision is to create an environment which can attract the brightest young minds worldwide, support their research and challenge them to be leaders in their own fields. Since our inception, we have extensive collaboration with local and international institutions. TLL is affiliated to the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and is located within the campus of NUS, alongside other research institutes and academic departments of the university. More information at www.tll.org.sg.

About Singapore Environment Council

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-profit, non-government organization, and



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

institution of public character that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Singapore. Some of SEC's more prominent programmes include the Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards, Climate Change Awareness Programme, Project Eco-Office, Schools' Green Audit Awards and Green Transport Week. In addition, SEC also boasts a strong pool of volunteers who translate awareness into action. More information at www.sec.org.sg

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 thirty four courses in Information and Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Events and Hospitality, and Culture and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving process skills and a life-long learning attitude. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum, covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive processes, prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society. Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, TR19, People Developer Standards, Singapore Quality Class and Singapore Innovation Class. For more information, visit <http://www.rp.sg>



P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

About The 'Made-in-Singapore' trees at Bioforest

'White Teak' is a multi-purpose tree whose wood is used for furniture, construction, sports equipment, musical instruments, artificial limbs and paper-making. Leaves being high in protein are used as cattle feed as well as for eri-silkworm to produce silk. Flowers, fruits, root and bark are used in the treatment of leprosy, blood diseases, abdominal ailments, and in the improvement of brain function, hair growth and lactation (according to traditional Indian medicine 'Ayurveda'). Using a unique tissue culture technique and proprietary master-mix formulation, different 'Super Trees' are cloned and regenerated under controlled aseptic conditions in the laboratory.

The highly efficient protocols are capable of producing 1 million plants from a single plant within a year, thus creating a forest in the laboratory. DNA profile is created for each tree to serve as a quality control as well as to give a unique identity to each tree. This technology is also being used in TLL for the preservation of bio-diversity, and the propagation of endangered species and heritage trees of Singapore. More information at: www.bio-forest.com.