MEDIA RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Mervin Beng  
Director  
School of Information and  
Communications Technology  
Republic Polytechnic  
Tel: 65103345 / 96324388  
Fax: 64151310  
Email: liew_beng_keat@rp.sg

Emma Sue  
Senior PR Consultant  
Office of Corporate Communications  
Republic Polytechnic  
Tel: 67330151 / HP 94883431  
Fax: 67330152  
Email: emma_sue@rp.sg

Ms Gayle Wong  
Manager, Corporate & Marketing Communication  
Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore  
Tel: 62110209/ 97533273  
Fax: 61112227  
Email: gayle_wong@ida.gov.sg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘NSI: SINGAPORE’

Republic Polytechnic promotes IT security via novel competition

Singapore, 8 December 2006 – More than a hundred students from 24 Secondary Schools will get to be IT security investigators à la TV the hit series ‘CSI’ when Republic Polytechnic rolls out their inaugural Network and Security (NSI) Investigation Competition on 11 December 2006. Developed and run by the School of Information & Communications Technology (SIT) and supported by Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA), NSI is a competition that will test the participants’ abilities in the areas of IT System Defence and Digital Forensics.

Upper secondary students from participating schools island-wide will be grouped into 36 teams of three each. The teams will be required to conduct investigations on the strength of a system’s defences. In addition, the competing teams will also have to search for evidence at the ‘crime scene’ and conduct the necessary digital forensic investigation to help solve the case.

Commenting on NSI, Dr Liew Beng Keat, Programme Chair for SIT, Republic Polytechnic said, “This competition is unique because it is the first time such a competition on IT system security and digital forensics is being conducted at the upper secondary level. We want the participants to have the first-hand experience of what it is like at an actual IT crime scene. We will build a scenario, and competitors will go through the investigation process using computer tools, their understanding of computer security technology and lots of ingenuity.”

The competition begins with the qualifying rounds on the 11 December 2006 and the finals and awards presentation will be held on 12 December. To prepare students for the competition, Republic Polytechnic conducted two workshops for participants in November.

With more than S$10,000 of prizes to be won, the Network and Security Investigation Challenge is Republic Polytechnic’s contribution towards IDA’s effort to promote infocomm to the younger generation. The NSI is part of the National Infocomm Competition series organized by IDA to help boost greater awareness and use of infocomm at the national level.

Republic Polytechnic’s initiative in promoting IT in such an innovative manner has received warm industry backing in the form of participation and sponsorship from major corporations such as Microsoft, Symantec, AccessData, Acer and Sony.

The NSI competition will be held at Republic Polytechnic’s new Woodlands campus.
About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to adopt the Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic has five schools offering nineteen diploma courses in Information & Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, and Sports, Health & Leisure. 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 national and international accreditations, including People Developer Standards, ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, Singapore Quality Class, Singapore Innovation Class, and the Singapore Health Awards (Gold). For more information, visit http://www.rp.sg.

About The National Infocomm Competition

The National Infocomm Competition (NIC) is a multi-themed competition organised by the InfoComm Development Authority of Singapore, universities, polytechnics, ITE College Central, Singapore Computer Society and Singapore Science Centre. It aims to raise awareness and excitement among the students and the public about Infocomm. The competition will comprise eleven challenges divided into three circuits for the students of Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and ITE/Polytechnics. The stations will focus on various areas of infocomm such as security, programming, mobile technology, games development, business IT and more. For details, please visit talent.singaporeinfocomm.sg.

The 24 schools that will be taking part in the competition are:

1. Anglican High School
2. Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)
3. Assumption English School
4. Bedok South Secondary School
5. Boon Lay Secondary School
6. Catholic High School
7. Chua Chu Kang Secondary School
8. Chung Cheng High School
9. Clementi Town Secondary School
10. Fuchun Secondary School
11. Fuhua Secondary School
12. Jurongville Secondary School
13. Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School
14. Manjusri Secondary School
15. Maris Stella High School
16. Marsiling Secondary School
17. Montfort Secondary School
18. Pasir Ris Secondary School
19. Raffles Institution
20. St Patrick's School
21. Tampines Secondary School
22. Victoria School
23. Yishun Town Secondary School
24. Yishun Secondary School