Hear our graduates’ stories in their Careers

Full Name: Liu Ning
Year graduated from RP: 2011
GPA: 3.93
Current Status: Works at Bellamy’s Organic (South East Asia) Pte Ltd
Job Designation: Logistics Officer, in charge of South East Asia supply chain & logistics operation.
Job Scope: 3rd Party Logistics management, order fulfilment for both E-commerce orders and offline orders across SEA region. Develop the logistics SOP manual.

As I looked back at my three years of education in RP, and in particular, in Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management (DIOM), I’m sure I have made a right choice – a choice that has helped me in building up my capability in solving real life problems and become a better person.

I feel that DIOM courses are very well structured and executed. What I have learnt in RP is very practical and relevant to the real working world. I’ve also benefitted from RP’s PBL pedagogy – which helped to build up my problem-solving capabilities which is extremely important in today’s working world. I’ve learned to always question the current process flow in my work and always think about how to further improve them. With this, I have achieved a lot of improvement in my job tasks, which helped to reduce significant costs, to reduce the redundancy and to improve the work efficiency.

RP’s facilitators have always been very helpful and open-minded, which encouraged me to think out of the box. At RP, you will find that your potential can be fully released so long as you want to!

The daily team presentation trained me and improved my confidence to present to others in public. The daily team work has also taught me how to work with various people with different characters & how to be a dynamic and valuable team player. During the Final Year Project, I was the FYP leader, which allowed me to improve my leadership skills.

DIOM has helped me to pave the way for my career advancement. Today, I am really so proud of being a RP graduate, in particular, a DIOM graduate! I feel so grateful that my 3 years RP time has been nurtured by the professional & lovely DIOM facilitators.

Last but not least, I want to say, “RP, I love you so much!”
Name: Andyanto  
Year graduated from RP: 2011  
GPA: 3.1  
Company Name: PSA International  
Appointment / Job title: Senior Operation Supervisor

RP offered a unique learning environment using Problem Based Learning (or PBL). As a student, we are given a new set of problem every single day which required systematic problem solving skills. This has prepared us to think and approach problems in an organized manner to find possible solutions.

Besides that, we are trained to communicate with each other through group work and public speaking as we need to present our finding in front of the class every day.

In DIOM, I learnt modules such as optimization, planning, project management, supply chain and human factor engineering, just to name a few. The practical knowledge has helped me greatly in my current workplace as the applications are similar to in term of operations involved.

In PSA, I have the opportunity to experience different job function such as vessel operation in charge, wharf operation supervisor, safety supervisor, etc. as part of the career progression. I am currently in planning department.  
Thanks to the supportive RP facilitators and the unique learning system in RP that helped prepared me well for the workplace.
I chose RP because of the choice of course, wireless learning environment, and its unique learning system. I chose SEG-DIOM because of its versatility and application in a wide range of industries. Now, having graduated from the course, I am proud to say that I have made the right choice as DIOM was indeed a great training platform that provided me with lots of opportunities to grow, to learn, and to excel!

I remember the language difficulty that I faced as an international student when I first started out. I am grateful to my facilitators who have encouraged and provided many opportunities to help me overcome my language barrier. One most memorable experience was being approached to be the emcee of a prestigious event “Engineering Week 2008 Opening Ceremony”. This, followed by other emceeing experiences along the way, has helped improved on my public speaking skill. Now I am able to express myself more confidently!

Throughout my studies in RP, I have managed to obtain numerous scholarships, diploma-based and module-based prizes. Outside classroom, the experiences gained from my participation in the management committee of International Student Club was also invaluable, from organising and helping out in events, to the wonderful friendships that were formed.
What sparked my interest in applying to RP was because of DIOM, which wasn’t offered in any other polytechnics. Besides, RP has a very nice campus and I was very interested in the PBL as well. The facilitators are very helpful, and my peers were fun-loving too!

At RP, I was involved in the International Student Club, serving as Event Coordinator Head during my first year and Welfare Coordinator Head in the second year. I was also President for Puzzle Interest Group. Some of my achievements in RP included winning several module prizes, diploma awards, and Scholarships, as well as 1st runner up for VB challenge which was a competition that I had participated.

DIOM has helped me to be better in thinking more systematically when trying to solve problems in my workplace. Also, I now find it easier when it comes to processing data, making sense out of it. When it comes to solving problems, I’m able to consider various aspects of a problem more holistically when coming up with solutions.

Last but not least, my presentation skill has also improved a lot compared to before I joined RP, which has helped me pretty much at my work.

Thanks RP for making me who I am today!
Motto: Don’t finish doing something and regret not having done better!

Nicole Sim (DISE ’06 Graduate, GPA 3.40)
- Graduated in 2010 from NUS, Bachelor of Science (Project and Facilities Management).
- Graduated in 2011 from Kyung Hee University (Korea), Advance Certificate in Korean Language
- Currently working at Siemens doing Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

I graduated from RP, with a Diploma in Industrial and System Engineering (DISE) in the year 2007. I enrolled into NUS, studying Project and Facilities Management and graduated with Honours in 2010. Following on, I spent a year in Korea at Kyung Hee University for an Advance certificate in Korean language. I came back to Singapore and accepted a job offer in Siemens doing Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Being the President of the Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) & Social Dance Interest Groups at RP had allowed me to develop my EQ and my leadership qualities. My internship in Shanghai was also a great exposure and opportunity for me to be even more independent. Being the valedictorian during my graduation ceremony at RP was one of the most invaluable experiences that RP has provided me which trained me to become an even more comfortable and confident speaker in front of large audiences today.

Great thanks to DISE and all the RP facilitators who has guided and inspired me to pursue my dreams and excel!

Note: Diploma in Industrial and System Engineering (DISE) is the former name of Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management (DIOM)
I applied to RP because at that time of point, I did not do well for my O levels. It was the only school that offered an engineering course which is not so technical as compared to the other polytechnics.

Due to the setback in my O levels, I tell myself that I have to do well in RP.

Before coming to RP, my goal was to do well for both my sports and studies. Thank God, I was able to excel in these two areas due to proper time management and active participation in class.

I guess in an engineering course, you will meet people from all walks of life and also different nationalities. We spent most of our time together preparing and discussing our presentations. It was quite challenging initially, facing challenges such as culture shock and communication breakdown. This can be overcome if we try to understand and accept the differences.

I was very active in committees and sports. I was part of the Floor ball (Women) team, captain for 2 years and won the Best Captain Award in Glitz. I was in student union (Exco) for Service Learning Club, organizing FOP and other activities. I also participated in the Youth Expedition Programme to China.

I graduated from National University of Singapore in 2010, Bachelor of Science in Project and Facilities Management. I am currently employed by Land Transport Authority as a Contract Rail Executive.

Being a failure in O levels and able to enter National University of Singapore after diploma, I really have to thank the encouraging and motivating facilitators and staff at Republic Polytechnic. It was a life-changing process for me and I am actually able to do it, coping well with both my studies and sports commitments.

Note: Diploma in Industrial and System Engineering (DISE) is the former name of Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management (DIOM)
Motto: The toughest competitor in life is yourself

- Chua Man Ping, DISE (DIOM) "06 Graduate, GPA 3.13
- Further studied and graduated from Curtin University & Technology (International Supply Chain Management).
- Currently working at UTi Worldwide (S) Pte Ltd as Operations & Administrative Manager.

Able to memorize the whole text book and scribbling them down the exam scripts doesn’t meant you’ve understood the concept/ theory behind the things you’ve to learnt.

In RP, Problem Based Learning teaches you how to understand the problem you’re facing and enables you to solve it innovatively. In every environment there are different scenarios which we are unable to directly copy and paste from the textbooks and apply the solutions successfully. PBL is one of the techniques I’ve learnt in RP and this had greatly assisted me in my work & personal life.

In DISE (DIOM) programme, the modules learnt in this course allows us to learn logistics in detail and other tag-along courses like human factor engineering, auto-cad, six sigma etc. provide us an overview of what are the common industry practices. What I wanted to say is that going through these courses makes you the jack of all trades, master of logistics. I would like to thank all the facilitators which taught us, the pioneer batch of RP students. We are all new and trying out this wonderful learning approach together.

I would definitely recommend to all out there trying to find an interesting and challenging career to try out PBL in RP in DIOM as logistics is still a booming sector in Singapore, or if logistics doesn’t suits you, PBL will!
**Motto in life:** Make NEW mistakes every day, learn from it but do not repeat the same mistakes – Smile while you’re at it too! :)

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M.Husaini, DISE (DIOM) ’06 Graduate, GPA 3.38

Further studied and graduated from University of Western Australia (Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies)

Currently working with SingHealth

Position with company: Educational Technology Assistant

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I had lots of fond memories throughout my stay at Republic Polytechnic. I gained a good amount of exposure to ready myself to take on the world. During National Service (NS), I was intoxicated with a mind-set where being punished or ridiculed at is fun; but it’s at RP where I find being stressed and mugging is fun! Good friends who eventually became a band of brothers and sisters to this day, and Facilitators whom I could communicate without being subjected by their hierarchal statuses. Who wouldn’t miss being a student in RP?

This course trained me to build a lot of confidence in making critical decisions as well, as we all learned that numbers aren’t exactly the definite solution to a problem – I’m sure we’ve all heard of this phrase: *Lies, Da*ned Lies and Statistics.

Some of the trophies I earned were the Gold Award in Synergy competition (a tertiary-level Engineering/ Patenting competition) in 2006, beating many other teams from NUS (National University of Singapore), NTU (Nanyang Technological University) and Temasek Polytechnic (being the other Polytechnic to made it into the finals). Another was being the finalists for Start@Up Singapore: Nokia’s Run Your Own Shown Shop, a national-level business competition in 2005. (Seriously, we lost to NUS just because they had their School to sponsor and endorse almost everything)
All in all, I am very thankful and still do feel fortunate to go through RP’s curriculum structure and methodologies of self-directed learning. By the time I went to NS, I was ever ready to face hundreds of soldiers, literally, across all ranks and services daily, all thanks to the exposure in public speaking throughout my three years in RP. As an undergraduate and even now at work, I am not afraid of stepping into new domains such as Media or Social Sciences which I further studied in, or having to familiarise with the Medical environment due to my nature of work. RP has provided me with ample amount of skills that is both very applicable and practical for the real-world scenarios and also “compass” to guide my directions without asking for spoon feeding (ok, maybe just a little bit along the way).

Just in case you’re wondering, I previously worked in a local university’s core eLearning development unit and currently belong to Singapore’s largest medical cluster, also in the similar field. Together with my team, we are working really hard to (hopefully) radicalise the existing learning methodologies through paradigm changes, ultimately to help doctors save more lives.
During the course of pursuing Diploma in Industrial & Operations (DIOM) from Republic Polytechnic’s (RP) School of Engineering (SEG), I did not expect my life would change. The skills, knowledge and guidance from my Facilitators had greatly groomed me to be who I am now. They are part of the reasons to my success. The first few months of my journey in RP were extremely tough. Being an introvert, the Problem Based Learning (PBL) practised by RP, requiring students to communicate openly with classmates and facilitators during class discussions and presentations, made myself laborious in expressing my ideas and thoughts in words. However, my facilitators were not too quick to award me with low grades.

Instead, they continuously gave me motivational and supportive comments on my daily performances, as well as the areas of improvements so I can be equipped with better communication and presentation skills for subsequent lessons. Not only that. The emphasise to use innovations and creative ideas as solutions to our daily challenges can greatly be beneficial especially in the terms of life skills, knowledge, technical expertise that may come in handy when furthering my studies and/or working in any industries.

These are extremely crucial when I founded my company, AdHeights. The challenges I faced when running AdHeights had truly made me to be more innovative and creative when generating ideas as solutions for my clients. At such, with the multi-beneficial knowledge, skills and experiences generated from the three years of RP’s DIOM programme, it had indeed groomed me to be a successful entrepreneur.

Thank you to all of my facilitators for all of your guidance! And to all students who are presently studying in RP, or are presently taking this course – HOLD BELIEFS in your facilitators for they are someone who will always be trying to guide you to be someone whom you may want to be future!
I enrolled into diploma of industrial and operation management in 2007. I joined the logistics and supply chain management (LSCMS) interest group and being its president after a year. Having to have such position, I was exposed to many industrial leaders from every industrial event and it is really great that the school is quite supportive for the student to get closer to the industry.

Upon graduation from RP, I joined Charles & Keith Group as Group logistics executive. I was tasked to be the project manager for warehouse management system implementation. Thanks to warehouse management module and project management module which I took up during my study in RP and these modules really help me a lot in my work.

The greatest thing about RP is “learning with differences” which I totally agree with this slogan after I joined the workforce. The PBL system actually makes me to be an independent learning person and I am able to do my own research whenever I find a problem in my project during my work.

Great thanks to RP and all the facilitators who had made me who I am today.
Motto: Attitude determines Altitude

- Amas Tan, DIOM 2013 Graduate
- GPA: 3.64 (MINDEF sponsored)
- Achieved the Diploma with Merit, Academic Roll of Honor, Merit Awards and Module Prizes/Awards
- Currently working at Republic of Singapore Air Force (Unit Warrant Officer/Air Force Engineer)

Republic Poly has become a significant milestone in my life, having been granted a second chance at furthering my academics achievement. I was apprehensive at the thought of studying together with classmates half my age. The fear of not being able to catch up or blending in was overwhelming. Soon, I start to realise that the fear was baseless. Having changed classes for several times, I can say that every one that I have encountered is truly a gem of a memory for me. And this has helped me improve at working with others by understanding team dynamics.

Being in the working life for over 20 years, I tend to accept things as norms and routine. Thus the thinking skills were not enhanced and enriched. Being in RP has helped me to query and think better. The PBL approached has honed my analytical skills. DIOM offers modules that are relevant in every aspect of my work in MINDEF. From scheduling of manpower, making existing work processes lean to being a Quality Facilitator in my Unit. RP has helped me to talk and present with confidence. Armed with the valuable knowledge, I am able to contribute better to making my workplace a better one. RP has not only benefited me in terms of knowledge and technical expertise, but importantly, life skills.
As I didn’t do well for my O’ level back then, I couldn’t get into most courses in other polytechnics. But thank god that at RP, I found something which interests me and which allow me to apply some of the skills and knowledge that I’ve learnt in my work. Initially, I felt that it would be tough when I thought about the daily presentations and the need to work with people whom you may not be familiar with every day in teams. Given my more introvert personality previously, I remembered clearly that I had to try really hard to be more outspoken and participate more actively in class discussions. But looking back today, I have to say without this PBL system that I’ve gone through, I wouldn’t be where I am today. It benefited me as it not only allowed me to understand the theoretical part, but also enable us to analyse and apply as well. Through the daily presentations and working in different teams and people whom I may not be familiar or comfortable with, I have learned how to be independent and work better with different types of students in my team. This is also where I began to learn how to present my ideas better during class presentations, how you bring your points across to the rest of your classmates, and how you can think fast and revert with answers more promptly. Although back then, in many people’s eyes, RP is the youngest Poly which is not as established than the others, that didn’t bothered me and I am glad that I’ve made the right choice! This is where I met awesome facilitators and made many great friends. And most importantly, this is where I learn to be independent and grow to be a better person, not only academically but in life as well.

**Name:** Png Siyun  
**Year graduated from RP:** 2008  
**GPA:** 3.56  
**Achievements:**  
Academic Roll of Honors, 2007 (Semester 1)  
Academic Roll of Honors, 2007 (Semester 2)  
**Current Status:**  
Currently working in IKEA Tampines as a Swedish Food Market & Bistro Manager  
**Company Name:** IKEA (Tampines)  
**Appointment / Job title:** Swedish Food Market & Bistro Manager
In fact, back in 2006 while I was still studying in RP, I have already started working at IKEA as a Part-time Cafe Assistant, followed by Bistro Assistant (part-time), IKEA Food Administrative Assistant (contract-basis), IKEA Food Administrative Assistant (full-time), and eventually the current Swedish Food Market & Bistro Manager (since mid-2012).

Being in the F&B retail industry, I came across things like FIFO, safety stocks level, lead time, minimum order quantity, full container load, pallet calculation to maximize 20" or 40" containers, etc. – things that I'd came across during my course of study in DIOM.

Through my years in IKEA, I am also required and have been able to apply my knowledge to implement changes and work out ways to streamline various work procedures to help increase work efficiency and productivity for the team, and also improve on the team’s communication process. These are some of the fundamental trainings that I’ve actually received while studying in DIOM.

After assuming my current managerial role for 1.5 years, managing people and changes concurrently definitely is an on-going challenge for me. It’s about selling your ideas and the changes to your team of team leaders and co-workers, not forgetting my bosses, to convince them and ensuring smooth transition and implementation. But glad that i have started working in team and started practising my communication skills and presentation skills since RP days, instead of trying to adapt only now!
When I first joined RP back in 2010, I encountered difficulties with the Problem Based Learning education system. It was a unique approach to learning and allowed students to add value to their problem solving skills. Throughout my 3 years in RP, I had managed to gradually overcome that initial obstacle and was able to adapt thoroughly to the PBL system. With the support of my facilitators and peers in RP, PBL has equipped me with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle situations and tackle problems effectively.

I am currently working as a Service Ambassador in OCBC Bank and concurrently pursuing a degree in Murdoch University. The learning experiences and presentation skills I acquired in RP have transformed me into who I am today, allowing me to speak confidently with my customers and effectively working together as a team to accomplish a common goal at work and at school. I was recently awarded the Silver Award for Excellent Service Award or EXSA which is a national award that recognizes individuals who have delivered quality service. Thanks to RP, my facilitators and fellow peers for enriching my learning and encouraging me to scale to new heights!
Norvin Ong (DIOM’12 Graduate)  
- Currently in National Service

Motto: Confucius said, it does not matter how slow you go, as long as you don’t stop.

I enrolled into RP in the year of 2008 and studied DIOM in the course of engineering. RP was the only school that provides PBL learning based and I like the fact that I was able to study my modules in a unique way compared to other schools.

I was very active in my Magic Interest Group and contributed a lot to my IG which leads to many performances opportunities and able to obtain the position of secretary during my student life and alumni advisor after I graduated from RP.

DIOM helped me to think out of the box to gather innovative and creative ideas. I was an introvert before I entered RP but I have overcome my fear of speaking to a crowd because of the everyday presentations; it helped me to speak up with confidence and able to consider different solutions when solving problems. The facilitators and mentors are very nice to each and every student; they will guide us patiently whenever we meet some difficult questions in our everyday problems. Not only that, they are also supportive, encouraging and motivate us throughout the day, comment on the negative and positive of the presentation to make us improve more. These life skills that they have impacted to us are very handy because in future when I go out to work, I can remember what RP had taught me, to be innovative, to learn with differences and be creative.

I would definitely recommend to all that want to enter into a polytechnic as RP is really learning with differences, moreover, it is challenging and interesting to study PBL. Lastly, I want to thank all my facilitators and mentors who nurtured me for who I am today.
NORVIN’S MAGICAL PERFORMANCES

Stage Shows...

Grand Magic Shows...

Children’s Shows...