



Media Release

Republic Polytechnic celebrates tenth graduation ceremony with largest cohort

Over 4,600 graduates equipped with industry-specific and problem-solving skillsets to join the workforce

SINGAPORE, 4 May 2015 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today held its tenth graduation ceremony, with the largest graduating cohort since the polytechnic's inception in 2002.

Officiated by Guest-of-Honour **Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress**, the ceremony will see a total of 4,631 RP students graduate across 40 diploma programmes over the next five days.

Another 83 adult learners from eight Continuing Education and Training (CET) diploma programmes will graduate with specialist and part-time diplomas, bringing the total number of graduates to 4,714.

The pioneer batch of graduates from three Pre-employment Training (PET) diplomas – the Diploma in Consumer Behaviour and Research, Diploma in Mobile Software Development and Diploma in Sports Coaching – will also receive their diploma transcripts this year.

Including this year's graduates, RP has nurtured more than 28,000 work-ready graduates to date. In his speech to the graduating class, RP's Principal/CEO Mr Yeo Li Pheow highlighted the importance of life-long learning to ensure that graduates constantly upgrade their skills to stay ahead of industry developments.

"At Budget 2015, one of the SkillsFuture initiatives announced was the Earn-and-Learn programme, which is a work-study scheme for polytechnic and ITE graduates."

"SkillsFuture opens up many opportunities for generations of RP graduates – past, present and future – to build on skills and knowledge learnt in school. With more pathways to advance in their careers through industry-recognised certifications, our graduates will be well-placed to succeed in their chosen careers," said Mr Yeo.

To further support skills development for future RP students, Mr Yeo also announced the completion of the Republic Polytechnic Industry Centre. The six-storey facility will house industry-benchmarked research laboratories and learning facilities designed to provide opportunities for students to gain practice-based and industry-relevant education.

Mr Yeo also stressed the importance of the Industry Immersion Programme or internship, as a key element in training RP graduates with industry-ready skillsets for the workplace. He noted that every year, 100% of RP's nearly 4,600 final-year students are successfully placed on internship with about 1,200 industry partners.

In his speech, Mr Yeo highlighted the importance of having an innovative and resourceful workforce. He noted, "Having a plethora of skillsets alone is not sufficient for the demands of today's workforce. We need workers who are innovative and resourceful, and can solve challenging problems."

RP's unique Problem-based Learning pedagogy has trained students to be independent learners through collaborative problem-solving, while developing soft skills such as good communication and presentation techniques. The holistic learning experience enables students to acquire a range of competencies and skills, and stands them in good stead as they join the workforce upon graduation.

This year, top-performing students were also recognised for their outstanding all-rounded achievements. These students include:

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

Ye Mon Soe from the School of Applied Science received the *Board of Governors Award* this year for her exceptional achievements in her studies and extra-curricular activities.

NGEE ANN KONGSI AWARD

Lim Shunyong from the School of Infocomm received the *Ngee Ann Kongsj Award*, which is presented to the most distinguished graduate of the year who has excelled academically in their studies.

LEE KUAN YEW AWARD

Ye Mon Soe from the School of Applied Science, Muhammad Imran Bin Md Zin from the School of Engineering and Chan Wei Zhang from the School of Infocomm received the *Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science* for their excellent performance in mathematics and science modules, and their good overall academic performance during their studies at the polytechnic.

TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

Jovan Khoo Yong Wen from the School of Hospitality received the *Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal*, which is presented to the most outstanding graduate who has advanced from the Institute of Technical Education.

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About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage the Problem-based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and two academic centres offering forty-one diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Enterprise and Communication, Events and Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and lifelong learning opportunities. Its holistic and broad-based curriculum prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society as problem solvers, respected professionals and passionate citizens.

Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 22301, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class.

For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg>