

Media Release

Over 4,000 “industry-ready” students graduate at Republic Polytechnic’s eighth graduation ceremony

RP’s cutting-edge facilities combined with “soft” infrastructure equips graduates with the skills and mind-set to join the workforce and contribute to society

SINGAPORE, 28 May 2013 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today held its eighth graduation ceremony at The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC). The ceremony was officiated by **Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Acting Minister for Manpower and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development**. A total of 4,060 graduates from 35 different programmes will receive their diploma certificates over three days. This represents an increase of 130 students from 2012, and will take RP’s total number of graduates since 2006 up to 19,438.

Three of RP’s recently launched programmes – the Diploma in Renewable Energy Engineering, Diploma in Health Management and Promotion, and Diploma in Wellness, Lifestyle and Spa Management – will see their first batch of graduates this year.

Also graduating this year are 93 mature learners from across four Specialist Diploma programmes, including the Specialist Diploma in Applied Learning and Teaching, and the Specialist Diploma in Supply Chain Management, which are part of RP’s Continuing Education & Training (CET) offering.

In his speech to the graduates, RP’s Principal & CEO, Mr Yeo Li Pheow highlighted how RP has invested substantially in its facilities “to ensure they are of industry standards with cutting-edge equipment and technologies”, so that its graduates are equipped with skills that are industry-relevant. In October 2012, for example, RP’s School of Engineering launched The ARCH (short for The Aerospace Hub), a 1,500-square-metre aircraft hangar that houses a business jet, light aircraft, air traffic control simulator and equipment for non-destructive testing.

In addition to the physical infrastructure, he also spoke about RP’s “soft” infrastructure such as a detailed career roadmap that prepares every student for future employment right from their first year of study. A number of RP’s graduates have already secured jobs through its annual career fair, which this year saw 70 companies from various industries recruiting final-year students on campus.

Mr Yeo said, “If being a professional means you must be well prepared and well trained with some relevant experience, then being a problem solver means you must be able to tackle the unknown. For young professionals entering the workforce, the ability to solve problems through innovative thinking is essential.

“One distinguishing feature of the Republic Polytechnic graduate is that he or she is a problem-solver. Our Problem-Based Learning pedagogy trains students to solve problems daily, which means that as graduands, you would have solved over 300 problems during your three years here,” he added.

At the event, Mr Piragathesh S/O Subramaniam, President of RP’s 9th Student Council presented a donation of \$3038.92 for RP’s Needy Student Fund, raised by this year’s graduating batch who wanted to help out their juniors in need.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD

Piragathesh S/O Subramaniam from the School of Applied Science received the *Board of Governors award* this year for his exceptional achievements in his studies and extra-curricular activities.

NGEE ANN KONGSI AWARD

The *Ngee Ann Kongsi Award*, presented to the most distinguished graduate of the year in terms of academic performance, was received by Yew Eian Kian Phoebe from the School of Hospitality.

LEE KUAN YEW AWARD

Chia Wei Meng Alexander from the School of Infocomm, and See Jing Mei Claudia and Winanto from the School of Applied Science 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

The *Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal*, presented to the most outstanding graduate who has advanced from an Institute of Technical Education, was received by Xavier Tan Khen Leong from the School of Engineering.

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About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and two academic centres offering thirty-seven diplomas in Infocomm, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Events and Hospitality, Enterprise, and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and lifelong learning opportunities. 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 and has achieved various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, SS540, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class.

For more information, visit www.rp.edu.sg