



## **Republic Polytechnic and the Tropical Marine Science Institute hold Aquaculture Industry Engagement Day**

**Key players discuss trends and obstacles to developing Aquaculture industry further, with focus on reducing Singapore's dependence on imported fish**

**Singapore, 2 August 2013** – Republic Polytechnic (RP) and the Tropical Marine Science Institute (TMSI) of the National University of Singapore today held the inaugural Aquaculture Industry Engagement Day. This event was the first of its kind in Singapore, with both academia and industry practitioners coming together to share ideas and knowledge on various trends in aquaculture.

With Singapore's Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) aiming to raise the proportion of locally produced fish to 15 percent, participants discussed trends and plans to reduce Singapore's dependence on imported fish for consumption.

The event was attended by 150 people from government agencies, research institutes, institutes of higher learning and the food fish, ornamental fish and tourism industries. Representatives from AVA, A\*Star, Oceanus, Qian Hu and Resorts World Sentosa were in attendance, amongst others.

Also present were international keynote speakers including Dr. Thierry Chopin, Honorary Consul of France, Chevalier in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques, Professor of Marine Biology at the University of New Brunswick and Mr. Noam Mozes, Head of the Mariculture Division, Department of Fishery and Aquaculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel.

The keynote speeches covered Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems which aim to increase environmental sustainability and reduce the need for land and water inputs, and environmental interaction respectively. The two technologies were discussed in the context of land scarce Singapore, to identify ways in which the aquaculture industry could achieve the AVA's goal of locally producing 15 percent of Singapore's consumed fish.

Prof Peter Ng, Director of TMSI, noted, "Singapore is both land and resource scarce, and this presents a unique problem for local aquaculture and our researchers. Producing huge quantities of cheap fish, and just of a few kinds, is not enough. We need quality as well as diversity, and we must encourage the local industry to play an active role in producing seafood for Singapore, by making it economically viable."

"Good science underpinned by good business sense will be the hallmarks of a successful and sustainable aquaculture program. Only then can there be real food security," he added.

At the event, Republic Polytechnic also announced that it would be introducing a Diploma in Marine Science and Aquaculture aimed at nurturing a relevant and skilled workforce in marine biology and conservation, aquaculture technology and marine coastal ecology.

"Republic Polytechnic is committed to supporting the growing aquaculture industry, and is playing a role to help fill existing gaps, through providing both a platform for this exchange of ideas at the Aquaculture



engagement day, as well as the introduction of a new Diploma in Marine Science and Aquaculture early next year. The diploma aims to train and prepare students for the industry, as well as to support collaborative projects with our industry partners,” said Mr Ashley Chua, Deputy Director, School of Applied Science, Republic Polytechnic.

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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](http://www.rp.edu.sg)

### **About Tropical Marine Science Institute**

The Tropical Marine Science Institute (TMSI) is a research institute of the National University of Singapore (NUS), formed in April 1999 in response to the need for a multidiscipline and integrated approach to marine science research. The institute serves as a resource centre for tropical marine science R&D and education, to address national and regional environmental research needs. TMSI researchers work closely with government agency managers to address a diversity of environmental concerns, from water quality management, biodiversity conservation to climate change planning. The institute also conducts research for industry. In 2002, TMSI's St John's Island Marine Laboratory was opened to support research requiring seawater facilities. The marine station boasts a modern open-circulating seawater aquaria system, supported with research laboratories and living quarters for visiting scientists. Currently it supports 55-60 full time staff and students focusing on marine biodiversity and environmental science research. These include aquaculture-related projects amounting to over \$2.5m.

For more information, visit [www.tmsi.nus.edu.sg](http://www.tmsi.nus.edu.sg)

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