



Republic Polytechnic strengthens its Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management programme by signing three MOUs

MOUs will provide industry projects and internship opportunities to develop a skilled and relevant workforce

Singapore, 7 August 2013 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with three leading organisations in the field of industrial and operations management – the Singapore Productivity Association (SPA), American Society for Quality (ASQ), and the Project Management Institute Singapore Chapter (PMI Singapore Chapter) – further strengthening RP’s highly sought after Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management (DIOM) programme.

Students enrolled in the DIOM gain knowledge and skills in areas such as business planning, productivity management, quality control, project management, workplace safety and process optimisation. The broad applications of operations management have led to graduates from this diploma being in high demand by employers from a wide range of industries including healthcare, logistics, maritime, engineering services and consumer business. In 2012, over 95 per cent of DIOM students found employment within 6 months¹ of graduating, and the average starting salary for these graduates has also continued to increase over the years.

Over the next three years, the three MOUs will provide a platform to grow links in the industry through joint programs including seminars and workshops, nurture intellectual assets through knowledge sharing between industry and academia, organise behind the scenes industry visits with partnering companies and provide students with industry projects and internships to grow their skills.

“Industrial and Operations Management plays a critical role as the nerve centre of any business, helping an organisation better manage its resources, thus boosting results and driving growth. Companies are increasingly recognising the importance of industrial & operations management. We are encouraged that the industry recognises the knowledge and skills of RP DIOM graduates, and this has resulted in high demand for our graduates.” said Mr Seto Lok Yin, Deputy Principal (Industry Services), Republic Polytechnic.

“Today’s MOU signing with the Singapore Productivity Association, American Society for Quality and Project Management Institute Singapore Chapter represents a big step forward for our DIOM programme offered under School of Engineering. By providing our students with industry-relevant skills and experience, these partnerships will help nurture the new generation of operations management professionals, and play an important part in enabling Singapore to achieve its target of higher productivity,” he added.

The MOUs were signed at the “*Beyond the DIOM Horizon*” industry seminar organised by RP, to give its students an opportunity to meet and interact with key industry players. This industry collaboration was set up in response to the high demand from the industry for a skilled and relevant workforce, and to provide students with a platform to cultivate their skills in a real-world environment.

¹ Based on RP’s 2012 Graduate Employment Survey



In 2010, the Singapore Government had set aside S\$5.5 billion to boost overall annual productivity gains over the next 10 years to 2-3 per cent per annum, up from 1 per cent achieved annually over the last decade. In response to this drive for productivity and the evolution of manufacturing technology, the industry seminar at RP explored the productivity movements in Singapore and focused on business process transformation through technology to improve productivity.

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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

About Singapore Productivity Association

The Singapore Productivity Association (SPA) was set up in 1973 as an affiliated body of the then National Productivity Board, now SPRING Singapore. As a not-for-profit organisation, SPA's mission is to promote the active involvement of organisations and individuals in the Productivity Movement and to expedite the spread of productivity and its techniques.

The Association has a Governing Council which is chaired by Mr Tan Kai Hoe, Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore. The Council is responsible for laying down the policies and directions of the Association consistent with its objects. A Management Committee led by Dr Ahmad Magad, Group Managing Director of II-VI Asia Manufacturing Operations and also comprising elected members from industry, oversees the overall direction and programmes of the Association.

To upgrade the managerial skills of SPA members and others from industry, short courses are organised under the Business Excellence and Benchmarking Series; Productivity and Quality Series; Innovation Series; and Service Excellence Series. Conferences, seminars and study visits are also organised to provide a platform for learning and sharing the latest productivity tools and techniques.

About American Society for Quality

The American Society for Quality (ASQ) is a global community of people passionate about quality. By making quality a global priority, an organisational imperative, and a personal ethic, ASQ becomes the community for everyone who seeks quality concepts, technology, or tools to improve themselves and their world. ASQ champions the cause of quality through a variety of fields and standards. ASQ provides



support to a number of volunteer groups that develop and approve international and American National Standards. This includes the most widely known standards, such as ISO 9001, ISO 26000, and ISO 14001, as well as other standards and technical reports that apply quality management principles, tools and technology. The ASQ Singapore Chapter serves the local community to share quality concepts, tools and best practices among its member organisations. Through its wide network of industry linkages and quality initiatives, ASQ Singapore has advanced the precepts of quality far and wide.

About Project Management Institute Singapore Chapter

The Project Management Institute Singapore Chapter (SPMI) is the country chapter of Project Management Institute (PMI). PMI is one of the world's largest not-for-profit membership associations for the project management profession. Their professional resources and research empower more than 700,000 members, credential holders and volunteers in nearly every country in the world to their careers, improve their organisations' success and further mature the profession. The PMI Singapore Chapter was formally established in April 1, 1999. The Singapore chapter is very active and conducts various activities for its members such as Focus Groups, member's networking and social activities, professional development and training and conferences. Currently there are 1720 members registered with PMI as Singapore Chapter Members.

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