



NEWS RELEASE

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Singapore and Sri Lanka to develop technical and vocational education expertise in hospitality, infocomm and construction

Temasek Foundation, Republic Polytechnic and the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka partner to further develop training capabilities in the three key sectors

Singapore and Colombo, 17 January 2013 - Temasek Foundation, Singapore, Republic Polytechnic, the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, as well as Sri Lanka's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development have partnered together to help evolve Sri Lanka's vocational training system.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed today between Republic Polytechnic International, the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development that will pave the way for more collaboration in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) between the two nations over the next three years.

As part of the MOU, a two-year programme was also announced today that will see 60 vocational lead trainers learn and apply Republic Polytechnic's Problem-Based Learning (PBL) pedagogy in the context of TVET education. With the support of Republic Polytechnic's trainers, a further 120 trainers will be trained by the initial 60 lead trainers to multiply the benefits of the programme.

Temasek Foundation has committed a grant of about S\$433,000 towards this capability-building programme that will assist the Sri Lankan trainers to develop sustainable and adaptable PBL training programmes. This will enable and strengthen continued growth and development in the country's hospitality, infocomm and construction sectors – three key sectors that have been identified as national priorities for development.

"Modern and more effective training methods like Problem-Based Learning are used by Republic Polytechnic, and this sharing of experiences by conducting training in new technology will help to contribute to the economy by producing a competent workforce to the national competency standards", said the Vocational Training of Authority of Sri Lanka's Chairman Col. Darshana Ratnayake.

This is the third TVET training programme that Temasek Foundation is supporting in Sri Lanka, the first of which focused on TVET training in mechatronics and electronics at the diploma and degree levels, while the second targeted TVET pedagogy training. Temasek Foundation CEO Mr. Benedict Cheong said, "Having worked with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development on two earlier programmes, we have started to see positive changes apply to the TVET system in Sri Lanka. This indicates that the programmes are relevant to the community in Sri Lanka in their TVET training needs. This new programme will add a new perspective to the TVET framework and system in Sri Lanka."

Republic Poly's Principal and CEO Mr. Yeo Li Pheow said, "The MOU is yet another milestone in RP's long engagement with the people of Sri Lanka. Among the many engagement opportunities since 2010, the Rain Water Harvesting Project allowed RP students to build four rain water harvesting tanks in three Sri Lankan schools – namely, the Royal College, Ananda Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Kotte and Mahabodie Vidyalaya; to benefit residents. Another project saw RP students



share intermediate computer skills with the students of Royal College as well as help refurbish computer labs.”

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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 by achieving 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 Temasek Foundation

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that develop people through health care, education and research, programme that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through governance and ethics, programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters. For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

About the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka

The Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, which was established under the provisions of the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka Act. No.12 of 1995, provides skills training to rural youth through a network of six National Vocational Training Institutes, 21 District Vocational Training Centres and 238 Vocational training centres. For more information, visit www.vtasl.gov.lk

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