

## **RP and SACEOS provide talent boost for MICE industry**

**31 October 2014, Singapore** – The Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers (SACEOS) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 31 October 2014 for two years.

The two parties agree to collaborate on the following two major new initiatives:

- Inspire 360 Talent Development Programme
- Accreditation and Articulation of Diploma in Integrated Events Management (DIEM) students to achieve professional certifications offered by SACEOS

**“We are collaborating with SACEOS on Inspire 360 for our Diploma in Integrated Events Management students to be groomed and mentored by key industry partners. Through such industry exposure in real work settings, they will be ready to contribute to the dynamic MICE and events industry upon graduation,”** said Mr Seto Lok Yin, Deputy Principal (Industry Services), Republic Polytechnic.

Inspire 360 is an engaging and structured mentorship programme in which a pilot group of nine MICE and Events companies will engage second-year DIEM students in their company’s activities such as the Orientation Programme, events, mentorship sessions and project work.

SACEOS and RP identified key industry partners to be the mentoring companies in the pilot programme starting 1 January 2015. RP will match interested students to the mentoring companies based on the students’ aspiration in the various sectors of the MICE and Events Industry. The companies will then mentor and involve the students actively in their events and projects to allow them to gain on-the-job training and experience. The students will also be attached to these companies for a six-month internship in Year 3. Deserving students may be offered full-time employment by these companies upon graduation.

For the list of participating companies in the pilot programme, please refer to Annex 1.

This is also the first time that SACEOS and an institute of higher learning have collaborated to infuse two professional certifications offered by SACEOS into the curriculum: the Professional Conference Management (PCM) certification and Professional Exhibition Management (PEM) certification. These professional certificates developed by the industry for the industry, will increase the employment prospects of RP graduates wishing to enter into the MICE and events industry.

**“With such certifications, RP graduates will be industry-ready so as to contribute more productively as they join the hiring company. This dynamic industry can provide good learning opportunities such as educational courses and regional exposure. Armed with a diploma and a professional certification, a RP graduate can be on the mid to higher salary range of a fresh diploma graduate,”** said Mr Ralph Henrich, General Manager of Koelnmesse Pte Ltd.

Lecturers at RP are currently undergoing the following internationally recognised accredited certifications: Certified in Exhibition Management (CEM) and Certified Meeting Professional (CMP).

**Ms Neeta Lachmandas, Assistant Chief Executive of Singapore Tourism Board (STB) comments “Inspire 360 and the certifications will enable both the students and lecturers to deepen their level of expertise on delivering high quality experiences and events. This is in line with MICEHQ.SG, one of the key thrusts of the MICE 2020 Roadmap, which looks at building Singapore’s strength as a MICE destination and sustaining Singapore’s leadership position for the future.”**

**“SACEOS is the centre of learning for all MICE and events professionals to be able to attract and provide internationally recognised accreditation and maintain Singapore’s position as the thought leadership for a highly skilled workforce. We are happy that we are taking the first step with RP to develop future leaders of the industry,” Mrs Janet Tan-Collis, President, SACEOS, said.**

---

### **ABOUT SACEOS**

SACEOS is the only professional trade association for the MICE industry. It now has 120 corporate members which are the Professional Exhibition Organisers, Professional Conference Organisers, Meeting and Incentive Planners, Event Organisers and Suppliers to the MICE industry.

### **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 thirty-nine 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>

---

For more information, please contact:

#### **SACEOS**

Lilian Kuan  
Executive Director  
DID: 6733 8783  
Tel: 9105 8929  
Email: [lilian@saceos.org.sg](mailto:lilian@saceos.org.sg)

#### **Republic Polytechnic**

Patrick Seng / Julian Soh  
Manager / Senior Executive  
Office of Corporate Communications  
Tel: 9767 6701 / 9018 0719  
Email: [patrick\\_seng@rp.edu.sg](mailto:patrick_seng@rp.edu.sg) /  
[julian\\_soh@rp.edu.sg](mailto:julian_soh@rp.edu.sg)

Participating companies for Inspire 360

1. Ace:Daytons Direct International Pte Ltd
2. Aonia Pte Ltd
3. East West Planners Pte Ltd
4. Experia Events Pte Ltd
5. Globe International Events Consultancy Pte Ltd
6. Globewerks International Pte Ltd
7. Koelnmesse Pte Ltd
8. MCI Group Asia Pacific Pte Ltd
9. Singex Venues Pte Ltd