<u>**MEDIA RELEASE**</u>

Republic Polytechnic supports SkillsFuture drive through deeper industry collaboration

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Highlights at Open House 2015 include launch of new teaching dispensary, MOU signings and collaboration with infocomm and transport industry players

Singapore, 8 January 2015 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) and Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH) this afternoon launched the first polytechnic teaching dispensary at its open house event graced by **Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health & Ministry of Transport, Assoc Prof Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim**. The RP-KTPH teaching dispensary is the first of its kind in a local polytechnic, developed in collaboration with a public healthcare institution.

The new facility, which simulates a realistic hospital pharmacy, provides students from the Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences with hands-on training in the processing of medication orders and dispensing. It houses over 600 types of drugs, allowing students to acquire clinical knowledge and dispensing skills even before they proceed for their internships. Against the backdrop of Singapore's evolving healthcare needs, the RP-KTPH teaching dispensary is well-positioned to enable aspiring healthcare professionals to support pharmaceutical operations, especially within a hospital setting.

"This collaboration expands our partnership with Republic Polytechnic which started in 2008. Many of their graduates have joined us, and this collaborative effort will ensure that they have the industry experience to hit the ground running. This will result in a magnified impact on patients' safe use of medications when the students eventually join the healthcare industry," said Dr Doreen Tan, KTPH's Head of Department (Pharmacy).

Mr Seto Lok Yin, RP's Deputy Principal (Industry Services), added, "In this year's edition of Open House, we continue our efforts to develop an integrated skills-based curriculum through deeper industry partnerships. The collaboration with Khoo Teck Puat Hospital and MOU signings with infocomm and transport industry players open up more learning opportunities for our students as they gear towards skills mastery in their future careers."

The polytechnic also received a special guest, **Minister for Education Mr Heng Swee Keat**, on the morning of the first day of its Open House. During his tour of RP, the Minister was accompanied by visiting secondary school principals, who were introduced to RP's new courses available this year – the Diploma in Infocomm Security Management and the Diploma in Engineering Systems and Management. They then visited RP's learning facilities which include the Centre of Innovation for Supply Chain Management and the School of Hospitality training kitchen, Oliva. The visit ended with Minister Heng mingling with RP students and secondary school principals at a reception.

During the Open House, Republic Polytechnic will also sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with leading local and international industry partners, aimed at strengthening its new courses with industry-focused curriculum input and opportunities for skills development.

Today, the School of Infocomm inked MOUs with three established players in the infocomm security sector - RSA, Palo Alto Networks and Ixia. The collaboration will allow students from the Diploma in Infocomm Security Management to benefit from an up-to-date industry-benchmarked curriculum and joint programmes including seminars, workshops, industry final-year projects and internships. An IT security forum was also organised in conjunction with the MOU partners and infocomm security practitioners, with the theme *Partnering for a Secure World.*

Students from the Diploma in Engineering Systems and Management can look forward to specialising in one of two study tracks in their final year – urban transport solutions or intelligent systems. The School of Engineering will collaborate with the Land Transport Authority (LTA), SMRT Corporation and SBS Transit to refine its industry-focused curriculum for the urban transport systems specialisation track, preparing students to be industry-ready immediately upon graduation. An MOU will be signed between RP, LTA, SMRT Corporation and SBS Transit on the second day of Open House, 9 January.

Prospective students can look forward to finding out more about these and other existing courses that RP offers at Open House 2015, through the engaging exhibits on display. Lecturers will also be on hand to offer guidance on study choices at RP. Parents can find out more about polytechnic education through the Parents' Talk, organised especially for them to help their child make an informed choice. For more information, please visit www.rp.edu.sg/openhouse2015

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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 forty-one (41) 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

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