

World Vision and Republic Polytechnic Pilot Youth Livelihood Programme to Drive Sustainable and Impactful Volunteerism

New youth-led programme is a part of World Vision Singapore's objectives to put youth volunteer work in a new light

SINGAPORE, 5 December 2015 – World Vision Singapore and Republic Polytechnic today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), the first of its kind for both parties. The launch was announced at the Youth Summit, in conjunction with International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development. The forum consisted of thought leadership dialogue sessions which focused on topics such as entrepreneurial volunteerism, sustainable community development, volunteer resource management and leadership renewal, as well as measuring the impact of volunteerism.

The Youth Summit was attended by 150 youths, educators and representatives from key industry players such as the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, World Vision, Republic Polytechnic and Boys' Brigade Singapore. Themed "Redefining Volunteerism", the summit aimed to put volunteering in a new light by recognising the importance of sustainable and impactful volunteering when planning volunteering endeavours in addition to motivating youths to step up as humanitarian leaders of the future.

Youth Livelihood Programme – Empowerment through entrepreneurship

The Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) is a pilot project co-developed by World Vision and Republic Polytechnic. The inaugural youth-led programme is a bilateral partnership between youths in Cambodia and their counterparts in Singapore. The programme adopts a peer mentoring approach, focusing on the transferring of knowledge and cultivation of entrepreneurship and business skills to ready Cambodian youths for economic opportunities, paving the way for sustainable livelihood.

Accordingly to Global Employment Trend for Youth 2015, as many as 73 million young people are estimated to be unemployed in 2014. In Cambodia, the average youth is estimated to spend 47.9 months or 4 years in transition before they find the first job that gives them the satisfaction and security they desire. This unemployment trend among youth is a cause for concern and has been identified amongst other factors, to be extricably linked to education and skills training.

In recognizing this gap, the Youth Livelihood Programme is designed to empower youths with entrepreneurial and leadership skills to enhance work readiness and pursue self-employment in their career life.

For the Singapore youths, such a platform will provide global exposure to students and the opportunity to step up and lead mentorship sessions to help fellow youths in need. For the Cambodian youth representatives, they will subsequently pass on their newly acquired knowledge from the workshops and trainings to their own youth groups as well as other youths in another rural community (Kirivong District, Takeo Province). All in all, the pilot programme aims to reach out to 313 Cambodian youths.



In April 2016, 24 Republic Polytechnic students from the Diploma in Social Enterprise Management under the Centre for Enterprise and Communication will make a trip to Ponhea Leu District, Kandal Province, Cambodia, accompanied by two lecturers. These students are currently being taught modules such as social enterprise creation, volunteer management, social innovation and creativity, finance as well as accounting.

Over a course of 10 days, 25 Cambodian youth representatives aged between 15-24 years old will undergo a series of workshops and trainings led by the Singapore students who will impart knowledge and skills on business and entrepreneurship, with the aim to equip these youths with financial literacy and business skills to develop business plans and proposals with the option to execute their ideas.

Building Sustainability in Youth Outreach

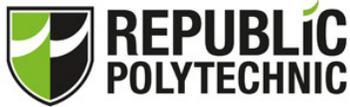
Beyond the trip, the Cambodian youth representatives will co-create business plans and proposals together with their respective youth groups and at the same time, the Singapore youths will continue to provide mentorship sessions through Skype over the next few weeks.

Through the domain knowledge of the Singapore youths combined with the local knowledge of the Cambodian youths, the co-created business proposals will be submitted for review. As an added motivation, the two teams with the best business plans will be given seed funding by World Vision to execute their ideas.

“World Vision Singapore has always been an active player in the local youth advocacy space and we continue to lead youth education programmes that instill the heart for humanitarian and nurture young leaders who champion these causes. Based on the World Vision Singapore study, 9 in 10 youths have the inclination to want to help others improve their lives and we see the potential in helping them translate their belief into related and impactful actions. Initiatives such as the Youth Livelihood Programme will involve more youths in deeper engagement and empower them to commit their time, knowledge and passion for a good cause for the long haul,” said Ms Foo Pek Hong, CEO of World Vision Singapore.

“This collaboration with World Vision Singapore is a natural fit with Republic Polytechnic’s Problem-based Learning curriculum, through which we encourage our students to be Problem-solvers of real-world issues. They will get to apply classroom concepts in social entrepreneurship and business to real communities, equipping them with the skills and knowledge required for sustainable livelihood. More importantly, these experiences from helping the regional communities will help our students build character and passion for serving the community, which is what the Diploma in Social Enterprise Management is about,” said Mr Warren Wang, Director, Centre for Enterprise and Communication, Republic Polytechnic.

In the near future, World Vision hopes to replicate this programme to other parts of Cambodia. Pending the success of this pilot programme and its relevance, World Vision may consider reaching out to other countries.



About World Vision

World Vision (WV) is an international child-focused humanitarian organisation rooted in Christian values. WV is present in almost 100 countries and serves the poorest of the poor, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender, in order to solve the root causes of poverty and injustice.

Beginning in October 2015, WV is implementing a new youth strategy with the goal of building a generation of compassionate youths with knowledge, skills, desire and means to serve the poor. This is achieved through involving youths in deeper engagement to serve the poor meaningfully.

For more information, please visit <http://www.worldvision.org.sg/>

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 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>

About Youth Livelihood Programme

The Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) is a joint collaboration between World Vision and Republic Polytechnic with a focus on Cambodian youths. The youth-led pilot program is aimed at equipping underprivileged youths with entrepreneurship skills and knowledge, enabling them to practice their leadership skills for their community development and build their competency in entrepreneurship, making them ready for economic opportunity. Students from RP's Centre for Enterprise and Communication will engage in mentoring sessions with Cambodian youth representatives who would in turn pass on their newly acquired skills and knowledge to other youths in the community. These youths will have a chance to co-create business plans together with continuous guidance from the Singapore youths through skype and business plans may be executed with seed funding.

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