

Press Release

**Enhanced skills training for Republic Polytechnic engineering students
through deeper industry partnerships**

Industry and RP collaborate to find solutions to improve manufacturing productivity

Singapore, 11 February 2015 – Republic Polytechnic (RP)'s School of Engineering held an Industry Day in which students, lecturers and industry players came together to share solutions on productivity enhancement for the manufacturing sector.

Focusing on the *Future of Manufacturing*, the event highlight was the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between RP and four companies, namely Autodesk, Creat3D, Cummins Inc. and Select Group, to kick start RP's Special Training Apprenticeship for industry-Readiness (STAR) programme. In line with the SkillsFuture national drive to develop an integrated system of education, training and career progression, the collaboration offers a structured skills and career development pathway for students pursuing the Diploma in Industrial and Operations Management (DIOM).

As part of the collaboration, students will have deeper knowledge and skills through various engagement initiatives. These include career talks, practice-oriented training and Final-Year Project (FYP) and internship opportunities with industry partners. Students who do well in their FYP and internship phase may also be offered full-time employment upon graduation.

During the event, industry experts from Creat3D and Autodesk were also invited to speak about the latest advancements in manufacturing, with a focus on harnessing technology, including using 3D printing to enhance productivity. Disruptive technologies, such as 3D printing, that allow the simplification of labour-intensive processes have been actively promoted locally – with the Economic Development Board (EDB) setting aside a \$500 million Future of Manufacturing (FoM) fund in 2012^[1] to encourage manufacturing firms to embrace these technologies over the next five years.

Mr Seto Lok Yin, Deputy Principal (Industry Services), Republic Polytechnic said, **“Industry is telling us that they not only need fresh talents to join them but also a big jump in productivity in every aspect of their operations. Under the STAR programme, we match our engineering students, trained in operations management and productivity, to the companies. The students will be attached to the companies as interns and also work on their Final-Year Projects as part of their training.”**

^[1] Chua, G. (2013, February 28) \$500m to develop future manufacturing technologies, *The Straits Times*

“In line with the SkillsFuture national drive to develop an integrated system of education, training and career progression, RP’s STAR programme is timely and allows interested students to learn more about the F&B industry by engaging through career talks, projects and internships and finally full time employment. These series of structured activities will play a pivotal role in students' growth and progression in future. We are glad to be part of this programme to develop talent for our industry,” added Mr Vincent Tan, Managing Director, Select Group.

“Our new Global Distribution Centre will provide a learning platform for students to explore, discover and acquire industry knowledge whilst progressing through their tertiary education. By participating in the DIOM STAR Programme, we seek to equip the Republic Polytechnic students with the analytical and industry skills to prepare them for a full time career opportunity. Upon graduation, students can join our Cummins Junior Associate Programme where they are given hands-on training in Supply Chain operations and to step up to work on productivity improvement projects,” said Ms Amy Lum, Director, Singapore Distribution Centre, Cummins Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.

RP’s School of Engineering also organised its inaugural 3D Printing Competition themed “My Gift for Singapore” in the spirit of SG50 celebrations. Secondary school students were invited to submit an innovative SG50 souvenir design created using Autodesk Inventor after a five-day training session by Autodesk. **“Today if you can imagine it, you can make it. We want to help groom the next generation of innovators and inventors in Singapore by providing students, teachers and schools with free access to our design tools so they can unleash their creativity and bring their ideas to life,”** said Deepankar Bhattacharyya, Head of APAC, Autodesk Education.

40 entries from 8 secondary schools were received and 10 designs were selected and printed in 3D. Attendees of the DIOM Industry Day voted for their favourite SG50 souvenir out of the 10 and the winning team from Bukit Panjang Government High School took home \$1,000 in cash out of a total of \$2,100 worth of cash prizes sponsored by Creatz3D.

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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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