

MEDIA RELEASE

Largest student cohort to graduate from Republic Polytechnic since inception

First batch of students from Diploma in Social Enterprise Management and largest number of adult learners to graduate this year

Singapore, 3 May 2016 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today commenced its 11th graduation ceremony for its largest cohort of 4,726 Pre-employment Training (PET) and Continuing Education and Training (CET) students since the polytechnic's inception in 2002.

The six-day event will see 4,614 graduates from 41 PET diplomas and another 112 adult learners from 11 CET programmes receiving their diplomas, graced by Guest-of-Honour **Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) & Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence**.

This year, the pioneer graduating cohort from the Diploma in Social Enterprise Management will receive their diploma transcripts. The cross-disciplinary programme aims to inspire a generation of business-savvy, socially conscious youths empowered with the skills and knowledge to begin their careers in social entrepreneurship and make a difference in the community.

A record number of 112 adult learners from 11 CET programmes will graduate this year with specialist and part-time diplomas. Among these are the pioneer batch of graduates from four part-time diplomas, namely the Diploma in Applied Science (Nutrition and Food Science), Diploma in Business Practice (International Human Resources Management), Diploma in Engineering (Electrical and Electronics), and Specialist Diploma in Business Analytics.

Since RP's inaugural graduation ceremony in 2006, the polytechnic has groomed more than 33,000 industry-ready graduates.

In his speech, RP's Principal/CEO Mr Yeo Li Pheow reiterated that everyone has a part in the nationwide SkillsFuture movement and called for the graduating cohort to chart their way forward through lifelong learning and skills deepening to adapt to an innovation-driven economy.

“The Earn and Learn Programme (ELP) is one of the important pillars of the SkillsFuture framework to better support graduates’ transition into the workforce. RP is actively leading the Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Hotel Operations and Management, Biomedical Sciences, and Sports and Wellness sectors.” said Mr Yeo. **“The ELP provides graduates with an opportunity to deepen their skillsets through structured on-the-job training while acquiring industry-relevant qualifications, creating good career advancement pathways for them.”**

Affirming RP's commitment to support its students in realising their career aspirations, the Education and Career Guidance Centre (ECG) launched last October in the polytechnic allows both graduates and current students access to counselling services, industry talks and job

recruitment fairs. Mr Yeo said, “RP’s trained ECG counsellors and new Career Centre are also open to alumni to help them make informed decisions when choosing their career paths even after graduation. We place great emphasis in providing our graduates with support and guidance, and hope they tap on this platform as they strive towards their career aspirations.”

This year, top-performing students were also recognised for their outstanding all-rounded achievements. They include the following:

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATE OF THE YEAR

Arvind Kumar Pillai from the School of Engineering received the *Board of Governors Award* this year for his exceptional achievements in his studies and extra-curricular activities.

NGEE ANN KONGSI AWARD

Susanti from the School of Applied Science received the *Ngee Ann Kongsi Award*, which is presented to the most distinguished graduate of the year who has excelled academically in their studies.

LEE KUAN YEW AWARD

Ahmad Firdaus Mustafa Bin Zainuddin and Raziq Ikhmal Bin Abdul Latif from the School of Applied Science and Arvind Kumar Pillai from the School of Engineering received the *Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science* for their excellent performance in mathematics and science modules, and their good overall academic performance during their studies at the polytechnic.

TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

Jacob Toh from the School of Hospitality received the *Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal*, which is presented to the most outstanding graduate who has advanced from the Institute of Technical Education.

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 seven schools and one academic centre offering forty-two 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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