

MEDIA RELEASE**Republic Polytechnic celebrates its 15th Anniversary in 2017, launches two new facilities at Open House**

*Teaching retail pharmacy to support talent development for pharmaceutical sector;
First-of-its-kind RP UAV centre to provide training solutions for industry and public*

Singapore, 5 January 2017 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) kicked off its 15th anniversary year with the unveiling of two new facilities at its annual Open House today – a joint teaching retail pharmacy with NTUC Health Co-operative Ltd and UAV training centre. In line with the national SkillsFuture movement, the facilities aim to equip our current and future workforce with relevant skillsets to keep abreast of new industry trends.

RP-Unity Teaching Retail Pharmacy

RP and NTUC Health Co-operative Ltd signed a Collaboration Agreement this morning to formalise the establishment of the **RP-Unity Teaching Retail Pharmacy**. It is the only such dedicated facility among the polytechnics, and will enhance the training of students in the area of retail pharmacy operations. In light of evolving trends in the delivery of healthcare services and rising healthcare needs in Singapore, students from RP's Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences will benefit from training in retail pharmacy practice and operations, visual merchandising and other core skillsets.

“We are pleased to cement our partnership with NTUC Health through the MoU and the launch of the Teaching Retail Pharmacy. This new facility simulates actual retail pharmacy operations and provides an industry-based setting that further deepens our students’ skillsets in pharmaceutical practice, enhancing their employability,” said **Principal/CEO of Republic Polytechnic, Mr. Yeo Li Pheow.**

The facility enables students to take on pharmacy technician and retail executive roles and receive practical training in a simulated retail pharmacy setting with a dispensary, patient counselling area, retail floor, and teaching space for discussion and experiential learning. The addition of this teaching retail pharmacy complements RP's existing hospital teaching dispensary launched in 2015 in collaboration with Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. Around 350 students from the Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences will benefit from the authentic and immersive learning environment every year.

Mr Chua Song Khim, CEO of NTUC Health, said, “The RP-Unity teaching retail pharmacy will enhance the way training is conducted for retail pharmacy executives. It provides a practical and conducive environment for students to engage in hands-on learning, honing their skills above and beyond the classroom. This facility will also stimulate interest in skills mastery in the area of retail pharmacy operations, and therefore contribute to building a pipeline of talent for retail pharmacies in Singapore.”

RP and NTUC Health also signed a separate Memorandum of Understanding today, to collaborate in areas such as student internships, staff exchanges or attachments, community services, scholarships, continuing education and training, and potential employment opportunities for RP students and graduates.

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, officiated the launch of the facility and participated in a ‘live’ telepharmacy video call with a pharmacist from Unity Pharmacy. He also launched the RP15 ‘Giving Thanks Campaign’, an initiative that seeks to curate the collective gratitude of students, staff, alumni and friends of RP through memorable photos captured on Instagram and a ‘RP15 Tree’, as the institution kicks off a year-long celebration marking its 15th Anniversary in 2017.

RP UAV Training Centre

Against the backdrop of increasing popularity and use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) among various industries and the public, the RP UAV Training Centre, the first dedicated drone facility among Singapore’s institutes of higher learning, was also officially launched this morning to provide training solutions to drone users on UAV operations, regulations and safety.

“The RP UAV Centre has an important role to play in skills development of our students and industry participants, helping companies seize new opportunities that drone technology brings. As we mark Republic Polytechnic’s 15th year in delivering quality education and celebrate this important milestone, we will continue to expand our industry engagements to train future-ready professionals for the workforce,” added Mr Yeo.

Since 2015, RP has trained 120 participants from the industry and government agencies. Observing a growing need to educate and train UAV users, RP first developed a two-day basic course in 2015. Today, the RP UAV Training Centre has expanded to offer a range of UAV courses at basic and advanced levels, addressing public and industry needs and applications across diverse sectors that include agriculture, construction, supply chain, and search and rescue operations.



The Centre also undertakes UAV-related consultancy and training projects with various industries and conducts UAV appreciation workshops for companies and secondary schools. Around 200 aerospace and interactive and digital media students from RP will benefit from the Centre each year as part of their curriculum.

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Republic Polytechnic Open House 2017

Prospective students and parents can look forward to find out more about the various events and existing courses at RP Open House that is happening from 5-7 January 2017.

For more about RP Open House 2017, please visit: <http://www.rp.edu.sg/discover/open-house.html>

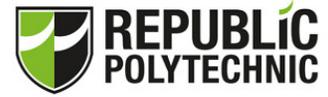
About Republic Polytechnic

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-one diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Enterprise and Communication, 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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