

MEDIA RELEASE

Marking its 15th Anniversary, Republic Polytechnic sees 4,752 graduates take the stage at twelfth graduation ceremony

Pioneer batch of Polytechnic Foundation Programme, Marine Science & Aquaculture, Human Resource Management with Psychology students graduate this year

Singapore, 2 May 2017 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today celebrates the achievements of its 12th graduation cohort of 4,389 Pre-employment Training (PET) students and 363 Continuing education and training (CET) adult learners. This year, which also marks RP's 15th anniversary, a total of 4,752 graduates from 58 PET and CET programmes will receive their diploma certificates over the six-day graduation ceremonies, beginning with the first session officiated by **Guest-of-Honour and Minister for Manpower, Mr Lim Swee Say**.

Among the PET graduates is the first batch of Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) students. Launched across the polytechnics in 2013, the through-train programme for academically well-performing Normal (Academic) students allows them to gain direct admission into a diploma course of their choice upon completion of a foundation year at a polytechnic.

The inaugural batch of 49 Diploma in Marine Science and Aquaculture (DMAC) and 42 Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology (DHRMP) students are also among the PET graduates this year, joining the ranks of over 37,000 RP alumni to date. This new generation of skilled marine science, aquaculture and human resource professionals will be moving on to further the growth of these sectors.

Reflecting on the polytechnic's 15th anniversary, RP's Principal/CEO Mr Yeo Li Pheow said, **"We are proud to have grown in standing over the past fifteen years as a polytechnic of choice. Looking ahead, RP remains committed to playing our part in providing quality education that meets existing and future industry needs. The class of 2017, which includes the pioneer graduating cohort from the Diploma in Marine Science and Aquaculture as well as the Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology, is testament to that."**

Speaking about the first batch of DHRMP graduates, Mr Yeo added, **"Prior to graduating, 20% of the pioneer cohort from the Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology had received full-time job offers in the field of HR. Meanwhile, we are pleased that some have also been sponsored for a Specialist Diploma in Human Capital Management by participating companies under the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme."**

In line with the nationwide SkillsFuture movement emphasising lifelong learning and skills upgrading, 363 specialist and part-time diploma students will graduate from 14 CET programmes at RP this year. This includes those who have completed their courses from June 2016 till this year. This is the largest number of CET students to receive their diplomas in a single graduation ceremony at RP.

RP has broadened its CET course offering over the years in response to the need for workers to embrace lifelong learning and skills upgrading throughout their careers. From 6 specialist diplomas and part-time programmes available in year 2012, the polytechnic now offers 17 such courses that span a diverse range of disciplines. Last month, RP commenced its

Specialist Diploma in Communication Strategies for Social Media, a course designed to meet the growing demand for social and digital media professionals.

As the appointed Sector Coordinator and Programme Manager for the Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Hotel Operations and Management, Biomedical Sciences and Sports and Wellness sectors, RP administers the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn programme for these sectors. The polytechnic also offers modular skills-based CET courses to provide working adults with flexible and bite-sized learning options for skills training and upgrading.

At the graduation ceremony, Mr Yeo also reiterated RP's continued support for its graduates and working professionals to upgrade their skills in order to keep up with the latest industry developments. He said, **"The diverse range of CET courses offered by RP provides opportunities for those looking to upgrade their skills to stay employable amidst the evolving economic landscape. In addition, the RP Career Centre's services and activities, including industry talks and job recruitment fairs, remain available to our graduates. We therefore encourage our graduates and working adults to pursue these opportunities for skills development as an integral part of one's career progression."**

An annual survey conducted among RP's Industry Immersion Programme (IIP) employers also found that an overwhelming majority of students were considered positively for full-time hire.

Referring to the latest Graduate Employment Survey conducted in 2016, Mr Yeo expressed confidence in the employment outlook for RP graduates. **"Reflecting the industry's continued demand for polytechnic graduates to drive the economy, we are delighted that RP's post-NS eligible graduates have a high employment rate of 96.3% while the average salary for our fresh graduates has also risen,"** said Mr Yeo.

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

Aqilah Faaqah Binte Haji Shamsuri from the School of Applied Science received the *Board of Governors Award* this year for her exceptional achievements in her studies and extra-curricular activities.

NGEE ANN KONGSI AWARD

Tang Lian Kwang 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

Clarissa Bernice Quah from the School of Applied Science, and Clive Chia Chun and Kerwin Tan Jun Xiong, both 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 overall academic performance during their studies at the polytechnic. Clive Chia Chun is also from the first batch of RP Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP) graduates.

TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

Tnay Teng Long from the School of Infocomm 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-one diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management 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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