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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Republic Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation International to build capabilities in tourism and hospitality development in the Philippines**

*Under the partnership, the two polytechnics will sign an MoU with the Department of Tourism, Philippines, and the Province of Cebu to co-develop a 36-month long capability development programme*

**Singapore and Cebu, 28 September 2017** – Two Singapore institutes of higher learning, Republic Polytechnic (RP) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP), have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Tourism, Philippines and the Province of Cebu to develop a 36-month Tourism and Hospitality Capability Development Programme in the Cebu Province of the Philippines.

Supported by Temasek Foundation International, a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation, the new training programme will commence in September 2017. Through the programme conducted by RP and TP trainers, around 120 leaders and specialists will benefit from the sharing of best practices and strategies on tripartite collaborations among government, industry and education partners in Cebu's tourism and hospitality sector.

“This capacity and capability program for Cebu's tourism and hospitality sector comes at a right time when the Province of Cebu is poised to enhance access and expand its products and services. Cebu's significant strides in community-based sustainable tourism development has been recognised globally and this program will be a good opportunity to learn from each other. We are very grateful for this opportunity,” said Honourable Agnes A. Magpale, Vice Governor of the Province of Cebu.

Emphasising the importance of authentic learning in the workplace, Republic Polytechnic will also share its Problem-based Learning pedagogy with the programme participants in the delivery of the programmes, using Cebu as a model to develop a strategic direction for sustainable tourism and hospitality development.

Among the modules that RP and TP will jointly conduct include Singapore's Best Practices in Tourism Development and a study visit to Singapore to learn more about its tourism industry. In addition, TP will also conduct a module on Strategic Tourism Management.



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Over the past 10 years, Temasek Foundation International has supported 24 programmes in the Philippines, primarily in the areas of education, nursing management, public administration and urban governance. The foundation has committed a grant of S\$488,085 towards this programme to support capability building for the hospitality and tourism sector. The programme will also be co-funded by the Department of Tourism, Philippines and the Province of Cebu. Mr. Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive of Temasek Foundation International said, "Tourism and hospitality development contributes to urban planning and economic growth. Through this programme, we hope to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences between officials and educators in the Philippines and Singapore, and contribute towards sustainable tourism development in the long run."

At the same signing ceremony held at the Cebu Provincial Capitol, Republic Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic also signed separate MoUs with the University of San Carlos and the University of San Jose-Recoletos, respectively. These collaborations aim to promote cross-institutional exchanges among students and staff, as well as joint academic research. Students and staff from the institutions will also get to go on overseas trips and internships to broaden their perspectives.

"Republic Polytechnic's Problem-based Learning pedagogy has borne fruit for both full-time students and adult learners across diverse disciplines – including hospitality – by equipping them with critical thinking skills to thrive in evolving work environments. We are pleased to be able to share our hospitality knowledge and experience with our partners in the Philippines, leveraging the Problem-based Learning approach. We are also looking forward to learning from Cebu, being a vibrant tourist destination. We thank Temasek Foundation International for supporting this meaningful partnership," said Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, Republic Polytechnic.

"With over 25 years of experience teaching hospitality and tourism courses in Singapore, Temasek Polytechnic is excited about this opportunity to work with the Philippines on a hospitality project, and to share our best practices with them. We look forward to contributing our expertise in this area and welcome the knowledge and cultural exchanges which will take place during this project. TP would like to thank Temasek Foundation International and Republic Polytechnic for this opportunity to work together," said Mr Peter Lam, Principal & CEO, Temasek Polytechnic.



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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 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>

## **About Temasek Polytechnic (TP)**

Established in 1990, TP is one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Currently it offers 48 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 30 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment. The Polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These ensure that TP graduates are ready for work or further studies, and to contribute meaningfully to the community. For more information, please visit [www.tp.edu.sg](http://www.tp.edu.sg).

## **About Temasek Foundation International**

Temasek Foundation International is a Singapore-based non-profit philanthropic organisation that funds and supports programmes, which aim to build capabilities with programme partners in Asia and beyond. These programmes enable human and social capital development, contributing towards a more vibrant and connected global community, with positive networks of cooperation. The programmes also aim to enhance capabilities in the areas of health care, education, public administration, urban management and disaster-response. Temasek Foundation International is a member of the Temasek family of foundations.

For more information on Temasek Foundation International, visit [www.temasekfoundation-international.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation-international.org.sg).



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## **About Department of Tourism, Philippines (DOT)**

The Department of Tourism (DOT) is the primary government agency charged with the responsibility to encourage, promote, and develop tourism as a major socio-economic activity to generate foreign currency and employment and to spread the benefits of tourism to both the private and public sector.

For more information, visit <http://web.tourism.gov.ph/>

## **About the Province of Cebu, Philippines**

Cebu is the gateway to around two-thirds of the Philippine archipelago. It is the primary destination of approximately 35% of the Philippines' foreign visitors.

Superb destinations, low operating costs and excellent government administrative support favour the development of new destinations which are serviced from Cebu. There are opportunities for ocean and land recreation, transportation, marketing, and tourism-related developments such as mountain resorts, hotels and golf courses.

After their arrival, travellers retrace historic journeys, play golf, hike mountain trails and laze on pristine white sands and dive on exotic coral reefs that equal the very best of anywhere.

Cebu's attraction make it the Philippines' premier tourist destination.

For more information, visit: <http://www.cebuph.gov.ph/about-cebuph/>

## **Media Release issued by Republic Polytechnic**

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