

MEDIA RELEASE

Republic Polytechnic partners SCOGA and Singapore Gymnastics to develop talent in both traditional sports and esports

SINGAPORE, 18 AUGUST 2018 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today with the Singapore Cybersports and Online Gaming Association (SCOGA) and Singapore Gymnastics (SG) respectively.

These partnerships pave the way for more learning opportunities for students from its Diploma in Sport Management and Diploma in Sport Coaching, and equip them with the skills and knowledge required for a career in both the traditional sports and burgeoning esports sector.

Collaboration with SCOGA

RP students will be offered internship opportunities at SCOGA, a non-profit organisation that runs the Esports Academy which is supported by the National Youth Council, and the opportunity to collaborate on projects, events and programmes as part of their Final Year Project (FYP).

Both parties will conduct research and curriculum development in areas that would grow and extend the knowledge and skills required of esports and its related industries. The scope of the MOU is as follows:

- Commissioned project to study consumer behaviour of esports
- Book prizes for RP students
- Student attachments for FYP, internship or life skills activities
- Joint organising of marquee esports events and participation of RP students
- Curriculum development

Esports has also been introduced into the Sports Business module of the Diploma in Sport Management to give students an appreciation of the esports ecosystem, sporting culture, business development and career opportunities. Students will gain a better understanding of the major stakeholders and the different roles they play, local consumers' attitudes and behaviour towards esports, as well as the esports culture in other countries and learning points for Singapore. These will provide students with insight into the possible career pathways in the growing esports industry such as in sports event and competition management.

Mr Dennis Ooi, Honorary Secretary at SCOGA, said, "Esports is quickly gaining recognition as a mainstream sport, with the International Olympic Council hosting an Esports Forum which we were invited to attend. The gaming population in Singapore cuts across social and cultural backgrounds, and we estimate an active base of 500,000 esports fans in Singapore."

"We are pleased to have a partner like RP, who recognises the potential growth of the esports industry on a global scale and wishes to provide a nurturing environment and learning opportunities for the younger generation to make a serious career out of it."

Ms Goy Soon Lan, Director, School of Sports, Health and Leisure at RP, said, "There is much potential for growth in the esports sector as an emerging industry, which is seeing an increased demand for skilled professionals in sport event organising, competition and operations management. To this end, the collaboration with SCOGA will better equip our students from the Diploma in Sport Management with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue a fulfilling career in esports management. We are also pleased to partner the National Sport Association for gymnastics in Singapore, Singapore Gymnastics, which will pave the way for more learning opportunities for students from the Diploma in Sport Coaching."

Collaboration with SG

Both parties will collaborate to enhance the curriculum of Fundamental Gymnastics Coaches Course. This will benefit not only the sport coaching students, but also the gymnastics coaching community. Additionally, the partnership will also see opportunities for collaborations in conducting joint projects in the Final Year Project module or other research platforms.

The scope of the MOU is as follows:

- Joint projects or industrial attachment for RP staff.
- Local or overseas student internships, and/or Final Year Projects.
- Issuance of complimentary invitations to conferences and workshops.
- Joint organisation, promotion and/or co-branding of various events
- Provision of scholarships and/or book prizes to RP students.
- Developing and implementing best practices in the sports industry.
- Growing and extending the knowledge and boundaries of sports industry and the related fields.
- Incorporation of knowledge gained from relevant SG projects into the curriculum of suitable modules in RP.

Mr Choy Kah Kin, President of Singapore Gymnastics, said, "Singapore Gymnastics is glad to have this collaboration with Republic Polytechnic. We both share the common interest to raise the standard of coaching in Singapore. We look forward to working together in curriculum development, training delivery as well as potential joint projects that will benefit students, athletes and coaches."

For more information on Republic Polytechnic's School of Sports, Health and Leisure, please kindly visit: <https://www.rp.edu.sg/shl/home>

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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 39 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>