

MEDIA RELEASE

Republic Polytechnic partners ST Logistics to launch first Healthcare Supply Chain Laboratory in an Institute of Higher Learning during its Open House

- *RP-ST Logistics Lab is modelled after an integrated healthcare supply chain system*
- *Lab features a range of automation equipment and robots to support healthcare supply chain operations and will prepare students for professional roles in healthcare*
- *RP has signed an MOU agreement with ST Logistics to collaborate on more student and staff learning opportunities*

SINGAPORE, 9 JANUARY 2020 – The Republic Polytechnic-ST Logistics Healthcare Supply Chain Laboratory was launched today at Republic Polytechnic’s (RP) Open House 2020. Combining RP’s supply chain management capabilities with ST Logistics’ industry expertise, the RP-ST Logistics Healthcare Supply Chain Lab is modelled after an integrated healthcare supply chain system.

The new facility, equipped with the newest supply chain technologies, will provide RP students enrolled in the Diploma in Supply Chain Management (DSCM) and Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science (DPHM) with an immersive hands-on learning experience, preparing them for roles supporting Singapore’s healthcare needs. During the event, RP and ST Logistics also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on learning and development, including student internships, student-learning activities such as industry talks and visits, staff attachments and book prizes for RP students.

The event was officiated by **Dr Lam Pin Min, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health**, who witnessed the opening of the laboratory and the MoU signing.

With a rapidly aging population, it is expected that by 2030, 1 in 5 Singaporeans will be older than 65, up from 1 in 9 in 2015. With this silver tsunami, the demand for healthcare resources is expected to escalate as well. Against this backdrop, there is a need to enhance the efficiency of healthcare supply chain processes so that accessible and convenient medication can be made available to patients at every point of care. This is aligned with the Ministry of Health’s key strategy of Beyond Hospital to Community¹.

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO of Republic Polytechnic, said, “The new laboratory will meet a very practical and pertinent need for Singapore, which is the training of skilled manpower to enhance our healthcare supply chain operations. With the increased demands on our system to deliver quality and affordable healthcare, this laboratory will be a dynamic platform for developing innovative supply chain solutions for work place implementation together with the industry.”

Apart from learning best practices in healthcare supply chain management, students from the DSCM and DPHM will get to work on joint projects and research with ST Logistics and other partners to develop new industry solutions and optimise processes. RP will also progressively expand the use of the laboratory to its relevant Continuing Education and Training (CET) courses to meet lifelong learning needs. With the latest supply chain solutions, trends and technologies available at the laboratory, companies that are keen to ramp up competencies are welcome to engage in consultative work with RP.

“As a leading expert in the National logistics ecosystem, it is important that we collaborate with national partners to future proof the logistics industry. Our efforts are thus heavily focused on developing cutting-edge supply chain solutions and ensuring our workforce is adequately trained to handle emerging technologies. This partnership with Republic Polytechnic provides us with the opportunity to collaborate at the industry level to inspire and develop students towards understanding and addressing the needs of the healthcare supply chain ecosystem,” said Mr Loganathan Ramasamy, Chief Executive Officer of ST Logistics.

¹ “The ‘3 Beyonds’: Singapore’s strategy to sustain quality healthcare as demand rises”. Retrieved from <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/the-3-beyonds-singapores-strategy-to-sustain-quality-healthcare-as-demand-rises>

RP and ST Logistics also envision that this collaboration would contribute to the larger national picture on future-proofing the logistics industry and its workforce in relation to the Logistics Industry Transformation Map (ITM). The joint lab is equipped with Industry 4.0 systems which will allow trainees a glimpse into future-ready skills required for the Logistics and Supply Chain Industry.

Some of the key automation equipment in the lab include:

- a) An Integrated Supply Chain Tower System (SiTadeL) that serves as an information hub. The wall display system effectively simulates and enables a range of ground logistics deployment, while being tracked real-time and remotely for effective data planning and monitoring. Students can also take part in crisis scenarios such as supply chain disruptions, where restorative actions are activated in accordance to pre-planned actions.
- b) An Icon Freight System that tracks both the air and sea freight shipments in and out of Singapore. This will provide up-to-date information on the shipments so that any delays, early arrivals or out-of-expectation incidents can be handled promptly.
- c) A Cold Chain System, which maintains a specific temperature range and tracks and traces cold chain deliveries to ensure the integrity and quality of the medical products.
- d) A Telematics System equipped with geofencing capabilities that generates alerts when vehicles breach out-of-bound areas and provides live stream images for secure tracking of medical products. In addition, immobilisers can be installed in every vehicle to disable movement when security is compromised. This solution is targeted at secured logistics to prevent any breach in security or loss of products.
- e) A Transport Management System that provides a comprehensive view of all delivery points, activities status and fleet management. Supervisors can swing resources between business units more efficiently to cope with surge activities so that all resources are optimised.

The launch event also showcased cross-disciplinary final-year projects undertaken by RP's DSCM and DPHM students in related areas such as inventory monitoring and medicine dispensary, which will be progressing with proof-of-concept trials with various healthcare providers in the near future.

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Republic Polytechnic Open House 2020

The launch of the RP-ST Logistics Healthcare Supply Chain Laboratory is part of RP's Open House 2020, held from 9 to 11 January 2020 at its Woodlands campus. Fresh "O", "N" & "ITE" students seeking higher education opportunities will be able to find out more about RP's extensive range of 37 diploma programmes in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Events and Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

Event highlights include:

- Discover full-time diplomas and lifelong learning courses
- Hands-on immersive activities
- Tours of applied learning facilities across various diploma programmes

- Entrepreneurship showcase of successful RP start-ups, makerspace activities as well as new innovations from RP
- Education and career guidance services
- Vibrant student performances across music, dance, and theatre
- Admissions talks

More details on RP Open House 2020 can be found at <http://www.rp.edu.sg>.

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 37 full-time diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

RP is committed to nurturing professionals with strong problem-solving capabilities through an innovative and entrepreneurial learning environment, based on a holistic and industry-relevant curriculum. RP's Academy for Continuing Education also offers a comprehensive suite of lifelong learning programmes to provide adult learners with skills upgrading opportunities.

For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg>.

About ST Logistics

ST Logistics is a Singapore-based company with more than 40 years of experience providing Supply Chain Management and Integrated Logistics Solutions to the Defence, Government and Healthcare sectors. It is an acquisition of Toll since 2006, with an investment made by NTUC Enterprise in 2018.

Today, ST Logistics generates annual revenues in excess of \$315 million with more than 1,000 employees worldwide. Our best-in-class solutions has broadened into the commercial sectors. These developments epitomise our passion to understand the needs and challenges of our customers. We conceptualise, develop and manage – with the aim of delivering end-to-end solutions designed for each partner in the region.

For more information, visit www.stlogs.com.