

MEDIA RELEASE

Republic Polytechnic launches start-up incubator facility, mentorship and funding programmes to support entrepreneurs

The facility's open-concept co-working space aims to further ignite the spirit of innovation and enterprise among RP students and alumni through a multi stakeholder eco-system approach

Singapore, August 25, 2021 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today launched the Entrepreneurial Partnership & Innovation Community (EPIC), the polytechnic's entrepreneurship eco-system and dedicated facility. It will bring together aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups and key stakeholders from both the private and public sectors, facilitating collaboration and networking to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial eco-system.

Officiating the launch of the facility was **Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education**, whom together with **Dr Maliki Osman, Second Minister for Education**, toured the new facility and met four start-up teams who incubated their business through RP. These include alternative sustainable protein supplements company [Altimate Nutrition](#), automotive concierge platform [Motorist](#), IT solutions and services company [VE Capital Asia](#) as well as GO!MAMA, which provides smart technology lactation pods that enable facility providers to incorporate lactation spaces for breastfeeding mothers easily and efficiently in public spaces.

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO of Republic Polytechnic said, “**We are proud to launch our EPIC facility and entrepreneurship eco-system today. Our multi-stakeholder approach to entrepreneurship will further enhance RP's capability to nurture start-ups and inspire the next generation of innovative entrepreneurs.**”

He continued, “**One of RP's five-year strategic thrusts is to focus on technology, innovation, and enterprise. The launch of EPIC underscores our commitment by expanding the breadth of entrepreneurship opportunities for our students, alumni and partners.**”

Mr Yeo added, “RP is also strategically located in the centre of the newly-established Woodlands Regional Centre, which is poised to become the largest economic hub in Singapore's North. This new business corridor offers exciting opportunities to deepen our industry engagements and entrepreneurship programmes, so that our students will be better equipped to take full advantage of Singapore's innovation-driven economy.”

Collaborative industry network and partnerships

During the launch, Mr Chan Chun Sing and Dr Maliki Osman also met with representatives of industry partners, including Mr Anton Wibowo, CEO, Trendlines Agri-Food Innovation Centre and Mr. Brien Chua, Managing Director of Sheldon Global Pte Ltd, the holding company of lifestyle brands HOUZE and Table Matters.

Through a collaboration with Trendlines Agri-food Innovation Centre, RP recently launched the Trendlines-RP Agrifood Innovation Programme to catalyse new innovations from the Agrifood sector and help pre and early stage start-ups develop and scale their businesses. A first-of-its-kind collaboration between an Institute of Higher Learning and an agri-tech incubator, the partnership will feature workshops, industry talks and mentorships, incubation

facilities, research expertise, market network and access, prototyping development as well as financing opportunities.

“It is a privilege for Trendlines to enter this strategic collaboration, as RP has a strong talent pool of budding entrepreneurs coupled with its focus in the agrifood sector. The right people and a supportive ecosystem are key for startups to take-off and thrive,” said Mr Anton Wibowo, CEO, Trendlines Agrifood Innovation Centre Pte. Ltd. (AFIC), The Trendlines Group Ltd.

With support from industry partners and alumni start-ups such as Sheldon Global and VE Capital Asia, RP will also be enhancing the funding opportunities for start-ups on their entrepreneurial journey, providing greater opportunities for them to gain access to key markets across industries.

A co-working space for ideation and collaboration

RP's EPIC is divided into three zones; Ideate@epic, Co-work@epic and Makerspace@epic.

Ideate@epic is designed to support community-building, featuring spaces for innovation and entrepreneurship activities including events, activities, talks and workshops. This space also allows start-ups to organise industry activities to promote cross-business networking and collaboration.

Co-work@epic offers flexible working spaces designed to facilitate cross collaboration opportunities through hotdesking spaces, a common pantry, formal and informal meeting spaces, video conferencing facilities and phone booths for telephone conversations. Designed based on a modern theme, this space incorporates minimalist elements, with communal areas for collaboration and discussion.

MakerSpace@epic aims to support innovation and entrepreneurship-related activities as part of RP's entrepreneurship eco-system. The facility promotes an open culture of making, building and tinkering where start-up teams can experiment and develop innovative ideas by harnessing technologies such as mechanical and digital fabrication, laser cutting, heat transfer printing, 3D printing and more.

Programmes that inspire an entrepreneurial spirit and nurture start-ups

RP encourages entrepreneurship and nurtures start-ups through a range of curricular and co-curricular activities, as well as entrepreneurship internship programmes for students and alumni. Please refer to the Appendix for a list of such programmes.

Success stories of RP start-ups include Software as a Service (SaaS) platform [CombineSell](#), which was later acquired by e-commerce firm Shopmatic.

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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 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>.

Appendix

RP encourages entrepreneurship and nurtures start-ups through a range of curricular and co-curricular activities, as well as entrepreneurship internship programmes for students and alumni as highlighted below.

<p>Pre-Employment Training modules <i>(includes modules common to RP students and optional specialised modules)</i></p>
<p>G121 Innovation and Practice module equips students with the mindset to challenge assumptions and apply innovation tools to deconstruct systems as they explore the creative process of ideation, and obtain validation for their ideas.</p>
<p>B101 Entrepreneurship module introduces students to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship from generating and evaluating various business ideas to other key topics such as marketing, sales as well as the finance and legal aspects of setting up a business.</p>
<p>Global Entrepreneurial Internship Programme (GEIP) is an optional overseas internship programme that can go towards the completion of the X931 Industry Immersion Programme. It nurtures young entrepreneurs and innovators in different start-up hubs in the world through immersive exposure to entrepreneurship and innovation activities.</p>
<p>X932 Entrepreneurial Immersion Programme (EIP) exposes students to the first-hand experience of setting up their own business as part of internship. The Programme enables students to hone valuable entrepreneurial skills including ideation, experimentation, concept validation, customer identification, networking, company formation, and self-reliance.</p>
<p>X934 Corporate Innovation Immersion Programme (CIIP) is an in-house internship programme that allows RP students a first-hand experience of the work environment through curated innovation projects.</p>

<p>Continuing Education and Training programmes</p>
<p>Professional Certificate in Entrepreneurship equips aspiring entrepreneurs with key skills and knowledge, such as revenue model development and business pitching, to build their start-up from the ground up.</p>
<p>Corporate Hackathon Programmes are programmes that seek to identify and develop innovation solutions meeting specific industry needs through the design thinking principles and methodology.</p>
<p>The Professional Certificate in Agri-Food Tech for Start-Ups seeks to develop the brightest business ideas and nurture aspiring start-ups in the agri-food sector. In line with Singapore's 30 by 30 vision to produce 30 percent of Singapore's nutritional needs by 2030, this certificate introduces participants to start-up opportunities in the agri-food sector and support to translate their ideas into sustainable businesses.</p>
<p>The Trendlines RP Agrifood Incubation Programme will catalyse new innovations from the Agrifood sector and support pre- and early stage start-up teams to develop sustainable and scalable business models.</p> <p>The programme comprises workshop sessions that impart knowledge and skills to sharpen start-ups' value proposition and business models. Industry speakers will also be invited to share their experiences covering various topics such as customer acquisition and financing.</p>

RP and Trendlines will also provide participants resources including industry mentorship, incubation facilities, research expertise, market network and access, prototyping development as well as financing opportunities.