

MEDIA RELEASE

Senior Minister Tharman unveils Republic Polytechnic's new Xperiential Learning Centre at the institution's 20th anniversary milestone

Singapore's first large-scale inclusive outdoor adventure facility will support student learning, research and community collaboration

Singapore, January 6, 2022 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today unveiled Singapore's first large-scale inclusive outdoor adventure facility, the Xperiential Learning Centre (XLC), on the first day of its Open House 2022. A purpose-built, weather-proof 20-metre tall tower that is equivalent to the height of a seven-storey building, the facility on the RP campus is presently Singapore's largest inclusive outdoor adventure facility.

The XLC is designed to allow people of varying abilities to participate in outdoor and adventure learning programmes safely, including the young, the elderly, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). The event was graced by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, who officiated the opening of the XLC and toured the facility highlights.

With the capacity to host multiple groups of participants at any one time, the XLC will facilitate the training of students from the Diploma in Outdoor & Adventure Learning, as well as those from other relevant Pre-Employment Training (PET) and Continuing Education & Training (CET) programmes in inclusive physical activities, experiential learning and outdoor education.

The new facility will also supplement RP's existing efforts in developing inclusive outdoor programmes for a wide range of participants, allowing RP staff and students to pilot new approaches and programmes in collaboration with community and industry partners.

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, Republic Polytechnic, said, "We are excited to launch the Xperiential Learning Centre today. It is a key milestone in our continuous efforts to chart new learning opportunities for our students. With this integrated multi-use training lab, students can look forward to enhanced curriculum experiences and opportunities for community engagement in the areas of inclusive physical activity, experiential learning and outdoor education."

State-of-the-art, smart adventure facility

The XLC features 10 adventure facilities and is built using smart building materials, making it weather-proof all year round. An auto-belay system allows some of the activities to be particularly accessible by participants with disabilities. With this system, participants will no longer need a team to assist them in the activities, as the system provides user autonomy without compromising safety.

Participants can challenge themselves with the Rollglider, High and Low Challenge courses, abseil facilities and a Skyscraper Walk.

An artificial caving system and sports climbing walls provide an outdoor 'nature' activity experience in a safe and controlled environment. The Circuit Board, a specialised climbing element, consists of a transparent panel allowing two participants to face each other while climbing, enabling participants with disabilities to be guided safely through the climbing route.

Participants with limited mobility, such as wheelchair users, can join in the activities thanks to a winch system in place on many of the facilities. Wheelchair users can therefore take part in activities such as gliding down the Rollglider, traversing across the High Challenge Course and abseiling down the wall facade, making experiential learning and outdoor education more accessible to everyone.

More detailed descriptions of the XLC, its different adventure facilities, and the diploma programmes and initiatives it supports, can be found in the accompanying factsheet.

RP launches 20th Anniversary celebrations

Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, together with Mr Yeo, launched the start of the polytechnic's year-long 20th anniversary celebrations at today's event. Mr Yeo took this occasion to thank the RP community, including past and present staff and students, as well as external partners in shaping the polytechnic's journey.

Mr Yeo said, "RP's achievements over the years from its humble beginnings give us many reasons to be proud and grateful at the same time. As One-RP, we have built an inclusive campus environment, strengthened our student support systems, forged deep partnerships with both the industry and community, and expanded the range of learning opportunities for our students."

Outlining the future plans of the polytechnic, **Mr Yeo added, "As we mature as an institution, we will continue to expand the breadth and depth of learning opportunities for our students. RP remains committed to nurturing graduates who are industry-ready and resilient in weathering the challenges that they may face in their careers."**

Hybrid format for RP Open House 2022

From January 6 to 8, prospective students and their parents will enjoy an exciting line-up of online and in-person activities at this year's hybrid Open House. Visitors can look forward to small-group campus tours of RP's extensive learning facilities over the three days, attend an online or on-campus course consultation session or attend free webinars to get insights into RP's course offerings and other useful admissions tips.

Students and their parents will find the one-stop Open House website teeming with information on RP's diploma programmes and its vibrant campus life.

The public may visit the RP Open House 2022 website at <https://www.rp.edu.sg/discover> to discover more about RP and make an appointment for on-campus Open House activities.

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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 36 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

REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC XPERIENTIAL LEARNING CENTRE (XLC) FACTSHEET

A. Overview

The Xperiential Learning Centre (XLC) is a purpose-built 20-metre tall tower (equivalent to the height of a seven-storey building) built on the Republic Polytechnic (RP) campus. Spanning 1,040 square metres, the new centre is the first large-scale inclusive outdoor adventure facility in Singapore. It is designed to support the safety of a diverse profile of participants, including the young, the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The weather-proof facility features cutting edge system and technologies that enhance the development and promotion of outdoor and adventure programmes. An example is the use of the auto-belay system for some of its activities. With an auto-belay system, participants do not need a human belayer as the system provides user autonomy without compromising safety. A winch system is also installed on some facilities, which allows wheelchair users to participate in the activities. The XLC has the capacity to host up to multiple groups of learners at any one time.

B. Purpose and use

Designed to optimise the use of urban space, the XLC houses 10 different types of adventure facilities in a single site.

The XLC is well-placed to support the following objectives:

1. Facilitate the training of Pre-Employment Training (PET) and Continuing Education and Training (CET) students in outdoor and adventure learning, health and wellness, with the ability to engage different profiles of participants. All students from the School of Sports, Health and Leisure are required to take a core module in Inclusive Physical Activity, where they learn how to plan activities for persons with varying degrees of abilities. Students in the Diploma in Outdoor & Adventure Learning will also have the chance to use the facility as part of their curriculum.
2. Platform for community and industry engagement for the development of adapted outdoor programmes for beneficiaries of social service agencies.
3. Testbed new approaches or technologies in the area of inclusive outdoor adventure learning to benefit more people of various abilities.

C. Facilities of XLC

No	Facility Name	Information / Facts
1	 <p>Rollglider</p>	<p>Located at the heart of the centre, the Rollglider gives participants the same excitement and thrill as the traditional zip-line, or more commonly known as flying fox.</p> <p>The Rollglider is designed to instill confidence in participants and overcome obstacles.</p> <p>Unlike the flying fox, participants descend in a circular motion from start to end point in just 35 seconds.</p> <p>The Rollglider is accessible to wheelchair users via a winch system that is connected to the various levels in the facility.</p>
2	 <p>High Challenge Course</p>	<p>Situated within the same shaft of the Rollglider, the High Challenge Course is tiered across two levels. It has a total of eight challenge obstacles, in which three of them are designed to include participation of wheelchair users.</p> <p>Participants can navigate through the course solo or in a small group. The courses are designed to develop self-confidence, independence and interdependence amongst participants.</p> <p>Elements located on the higher point are accessible to wheelchair users.</p>
3	 <p>Low Challenge Course</p>	<p>Below the High Challenge Course is the Low Challenge Course. The facility features five obstacles and is designed to condition participants before progressing to more challenging elements.</p>

<p>4</p>	 <p>Abseil Facilities</p>	<p>The Abseil Facilities offers the option of a controlled descent on the perforated wall or a more exhilarating experience through the hanging abseil.</p> <p>This facility is also accessible to wheelchair users.</p>
<p>5</p>	 <p>Circuit Board</p>	<p>The Circuit Board is a climbing wall that is built using transparent panels to allow participants to see each other.</p> <p>It gives participants the chance to mimic the movements of the participant opposite them. It helps to build self-confidence and prepare them for more challenging courses.</p>
<p>6</p>	 <p>Skyscraper Walk</p>	<p>The Skyscraper is located within the shaft of the High Challenge Course. Featuring a series of poles that are arranged in ascending heights, participants will start from the shortest pole and make their way up to the tallest. Participants will then jump off from the tallest pole in an attempt to hug the suspended punching bag.</p>
<p>7</p>	 <p>Artificial Caving System</p>	<p>At the base of the Rollglider is the Artificial Caving System. It is a 40-metre tunnel system that is designed to simulate the environment of real caves. This aims to build teamwork, self-reliance and self-confidence in participants.</p>

<p>8</p>	 <p>High Wall</p>	<p>The High Wall challenges the group of participants to ascend the wall without the use of any external aids.</p> <p>This process facilitates initiative and mutual trust to facilitate growth in team dynamics and development.</p>
<p>9</p>	 <p>Adventure Ramp</p>	<p>The Adventure Ramp allows participants to abseil off an inclined slab wall. It is designed to help beginners level up their abilities and competence in adventure sport.</p> <p>The Adventure Ramp is also accessible to wheelchair users through a connected winch system within the shaft.</p>
<p>10</p>	 <p>Artificial Sports Climbing Walls</p>	<p>The Artificial Sports Climbing Walls are a self-standing structure of 20 walls with varying degrees of difficulty.</p> <p>Some of the walls are equipped with an auto-belay system to provide safety support to a range of profile groups.</p> <p>The Artificial Sports Climbing Walls are accessible to persons with varying degrees of abilities.</p>