

## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Republic Polytechnic's 19<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony marks key milestone in nurturing talent for a greener world

*All first-year students can undertake cross-disciplinary modules or minors in sustainability from Academic Year 2025*

**Singapore, 03 May 2024** – Republic Polytechnic (RP) today marked its 19<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony with Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Ministry of Transport, Dr Amy Khor, as the guest-of-honour. This year, 4,509 graduates, including a record 1,023 from Continuing Education and Training (CET) programmes will receive their diplomas, advanced diplomas, specialist diplomas and certificates over 14 sessions.

Among the Class of 2024 are 63 pioneer graduates from the Diploma in Environmental & Marine Science (DEMS), the first-of-its-kind programme offered by an Institute of Higher Learning in Singapore. They are joined by 109 of their peers who are also amongst the first to graduate from the Diploma in Applied Chemistry and the Diploma in Sustainable Built Environment.

The DEMS graduates are well-placed to use their knowledge and skills in climate science, marine ecology, and environmental data analysis to tackle pressing environmental issues. As part of their learning outcomes which are geared towards building a sustainable environment, DEMS graduates have worked with the community to build the Woodlands Botanical Garden, launched a nature e-guidebook and developed a butterfly garden as part of the NParks' Youth Stewardship Nature programme.

The impact of DEMS graduates extends beyond Singapore. Amongst this year's DEMS graduating cohort is Choo Ruirong, who is also a valedictorian. As part of a two-week overseas learning trip, Ruirong and his classmates interviewed locals and scientists around Lake Toba, Indonesia, to learn about biodiversity and environmental conservation. Their hard work will go towards producing accurate content for an information board to educate tourists on the UNESCO Geopark's sustainability themes and its environmental importance.

Ruirong shared, "There are many misconceptions about sustainability and its impact on biodiversity. With my skills, I hope to generate more awareness on these topics and facilitate constructive discussions. If we all do our part, we can make a positive impact on combating climate change and protecting the environment."

## Sustainability Education for All

Ruirong's experience could soon be shared by all RP students. By April 2025, every first-year student will have the opportunity to undertake cross-disciplinary modules as electives or minor in Environmental Sustainability. This is in addition to the current 10.5 hours of common sustainability education that all students go through. The latest changes will provide future graduates with the ability to lead and discuss sustainability-centred topics or projects.

RP's latest initiative is timely as organisations worldwide are integrating environmental, social and governance practices into the decision-making process. The Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment has estimated that 55,000 new jobs would be available in the sustainability sector by 2031.<sup>1</sup>

### **Learning Never Stops**

Learning about sustainability is not just limited to young students. Forty-year-old Chua Song Nian enrolled in the Diploma in Applied Science (Urban Agricultural Technology) as he had a desire to transition from the automotive industry. After completing the course, the adult learner hopes to play a part in meeting Singapore's food security goals.

Ms Jeanne Liew, RP's Principal & Chief Executive Officer, acknowledged the role of the graduating cohort in tackling climate change, "We are proud to mark our graduates' achievements as it inspires us to continue nurturing youths to become the next generation of leaders and innovators. The first cohort from the Diploma in Environmental & Marine Science and the Diploma in Sustainable Built Environment are poised to enter the workforce and support organisations in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. Beyond the classroom, we will cultivate our students' passion and empower them to become courageous gamechangers who will create a positive impact in the community."

### **Special Award Winners**

At the ceremony, special awards were conferred upon seven graduates in recognition of their outstanding achievements in both academics and the community. The awards presented to these graduates include the Board of Governors Award for the Most Outstanding Graduate of the Year, the Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science, The Ngee Ann Kongsu Award for the Most Distinguished Graduate of the Year (Academic), and the Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal.

Please refer to **Annex A** for the full list of award winners and quotes.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.straitstimes.com/politics/addendum-to-presidents-address-55000-new-jobs-to-be-created-in-sustainability-sector-in>

## **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 two academic centres 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>.

## Annex A

At the ceremony, special awards were also conferred on seven graduates for their outstanding achievements in both academics and the community.

<b>Special Award</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
<p><b>BOARD OF GOVERNORS AWARD FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATE OF THE YEAR</b></p> <p>This award is presented to the most outstanding graduate who has excelled academically, performed at the highest standard and inculcated an appreciation of virtues and beliefs which RP advocates.</p>	<p>Lau Min Hann <i>Diploma in Aerospace Engineering</i></p>
<p><b>LEE KUAN YEW AWARD FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE</b></p> <p>These awards are presented to the top graduates from the technology or computer science courses.</p>	<p>Ahmad Dzaki Bin Osman <i>Diploma in Information Technology</i></p> <p>Loh Wei Wen, Jaci <i>Diploma in Biomedical Science</i></p> <p>Ong Yao Sheng, Zavier <i>Diploma in Aviation Management</i></p> <p>Tay Mun Jeen <i>Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science</i></p>
<p><b>THE Ngee ANN KONGSI AWARD FOR THE MOST DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE OF THE YEAR</b></p> <p>This award is presented to the graduate who has shown distinguished accomplishments in both academic and non-academic areas, while demonstrating strong leadership and values.</p>	<p>Brian Tan Jin Hock <i>Diploma in Biomedical Science</i></p>
<p><b>TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL</b></p> <p>This award is presented to the most outstanding graduate who has advanced from the Institute of Technical Education.</p>	<p>Thea Ramona Fernando <i>Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology</i></p>