

Republic Polytechnic partners Singapore Economic Development Board and biopharmaceutical giants to launch the industry's first talent programme to inject industry-ready professionals for the biopharmaceutical sector in Singapore

Singapore, 9 January 2025 – In collaboration with the Biopharmaceutical Manufacturer's Advisory Council (BMAC) and supported by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), Republic Polytechnic (RP) today launched the Talent Advancement Programme (TAP), the first-of-its-kind initiative across local polytechnics designed to prepare students for the growing biopharmaceutical industry.

The strategic partnership with the BMAC, comprising 16 globally leading biomedical sciences companies, ensures a sustainable pipeline of talent for this high-growth industry in Singapore. As a key feature, it will also offer students an extensive 36-week internship in their final year, providing unparalleled exposure to the inner workings of leading biopharmaceutical companies.

Students who are part of the TAP acquire deeper expertise and practical experience that align with the Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Skills Framework¹, making them highly sought-after by employers. The programme also includes opportunities for multi-departmental rotations and involvement in industry-driven projects, equipping students with real-world insights into the global biopharmaceutical operations. This enhances their employability, with many graduates expected to get a head start from the internship companies so that they can secure roles in manufacturing, automation, engineering, and supply chain, within the sector.

According to **Mr Lim Hock Heng, Co-Chair of BMAC, and Vice President and Site Director, GSK**, “the TAP programme brings fresh talent into the biopharma industry, giving BMAC companies like us the chance to work directly with students who already have hands-on experience and a better understanding of industry standards. Having early access to these talents enables us to build a skilled workforce ready to have an impact on the rapidly growing biopharma sector and, ultimately, for patients worldwide.”

“The longstanding collaborations that Republic Polytechnic has with the leading biopharmaceutical firms have been instrumental in producing industry-ready graduates. This partnership provides a tremendous opportunity for our students to learn from the best in the field, given the industry's track record in operational excellence and innovation. The Talent Advancement Programme not only bridges the gap between education and industry but also empowers our graduates to thrive and be adept in an increasingly competitive world,” added **Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Republic Polytechnic**.

The collaboration will also allow both parties to shape the educational experience to meet the demands of the biopharmaceutical sector as they serve the healthcare needs of patients worldwide. Come Academic Year (AY) 2025, close to 360 Year 2 students from the relevant science and engineering-related diplomas will be eligible to apply for the programme. This will steadily increase to approximately 1,000 in AY 2027 when the curriculum revamp for about 9 diplomas is completed.

Ms Goh Wan Yee, Senior Vice President and Head, Healthcare, EDB, said: “We welcome this partnership between Republic Polytechnic and BMAC. This initiative will equip students with

¹ <https://www.skillsfuture.gov.sg/skills-framework/biopharmmmfg>

the relevant skills and exposure to contribute meaningfully to the industry upon graduation. It will also strengthen the talent pool needed to support the growth of the biopharmaceutical sector in Singapore.”

There are over 60 biopharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in Singapore across diverse modalities – from Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) to Biologics (Therapeutics and Vaccines) and Cell Therapies. Eight out of the top 10 biopharmaceutical companies have best-in-class facilities here. These facilities produced S\$18.7 billion worth of products in 2023, hiring more than 9,500 workers, contributing 1.5% to the nation's GDP.

The launch of the TAP is part of RP's Open House 2025, which will be held from 9 to 11 January at its Woodlands campus. Fresh O-Level, N-Level and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates seeking higher education opportunities are welcome to visit RP to find out more about RP's full-time diploma programmes in Applied Science, Business, Engineering, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports and Health, as well as Technology for the Arts, Media and Design.

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Media release issued by:
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About Republic Polytechnic

Established in 2002, Republic Polytechnic (RP) is Singapore's youngest polytechnic. RP offers over 40 full-time courses across diverse fields, including Applied Science, Business, Engineering, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports and Health, and Technology for the Arts, Media, and Design. Through its “Becoming Greater Me” framework, RP endeavours to spark joy in learning by helping students discover their purpose and aligning their goals and passions with both academic and life pursuits.

RP adopts effective learner-centred pedagogies to equip students with a wide range of skills needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world. The polytechnic envisions its graduates as Articulate Self-Starters, Passionate Community Builders, and Purposeful Game-Changers. Additionally, RP's Academy for Continuing Education offers a comprehensive suite of lifelong learning programmes, providing graduates and adult learners with upskilling opportunities.

Learn more at www.rp.edu.sg.

ANNEX A

Participating Biopharmaceutical Manufacturer's Advisory Council (BMAC) companies:

1. Abbott
2. AbbVie
3. Alcon
4. BioNTech
5. GSK
6. Kaneka
7. Lonza
8. Mead Johnson
9. MSD
10. Novartis
11. Pfizer
12. Roche
13. Sanofi
14. Takeda
15. Thermo Fisher
16. Wyeth

ANNEX B



*Dr Lim Boon Whatt,
Director, School of Applied Science, Republic
Polytechnic, gives welcome remarks at the launch
of **Republic Polytechnic Talent Advancement
Programme***



(tenth from left)

*Mr Abel Ang, Chairman,
Republic Polytechnic Board of Governors;*

(eleventh from left)

*Ms Goh Wan Yee, Senior Vice President and
Head, Healthcare, Economic Development Board;*

(twelfth from left)

*Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal & CEO,
Republic Polytechnic;*

(seventh from right)

*Mr Lim Hock Heng, Co-Chair of Biopharmaceutical
Manufacturer's Advisory Council;*

and 16 industry partners of TAP



Year 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science (DPHM) student demonstrating cutting-edge AR and VR technologies in learning



At Republic Polytechnic Open House 2025, there are ample opportunities to interact with current RP students and lecturers to find out more about the diploma courses offered.

Students show off their consumer personality type Badges after learning more about practical applications of consumer insights in commerce.



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Republic Polytechnic utilises VR and AR technologies to provide students with interactive and engaging learning experiences.