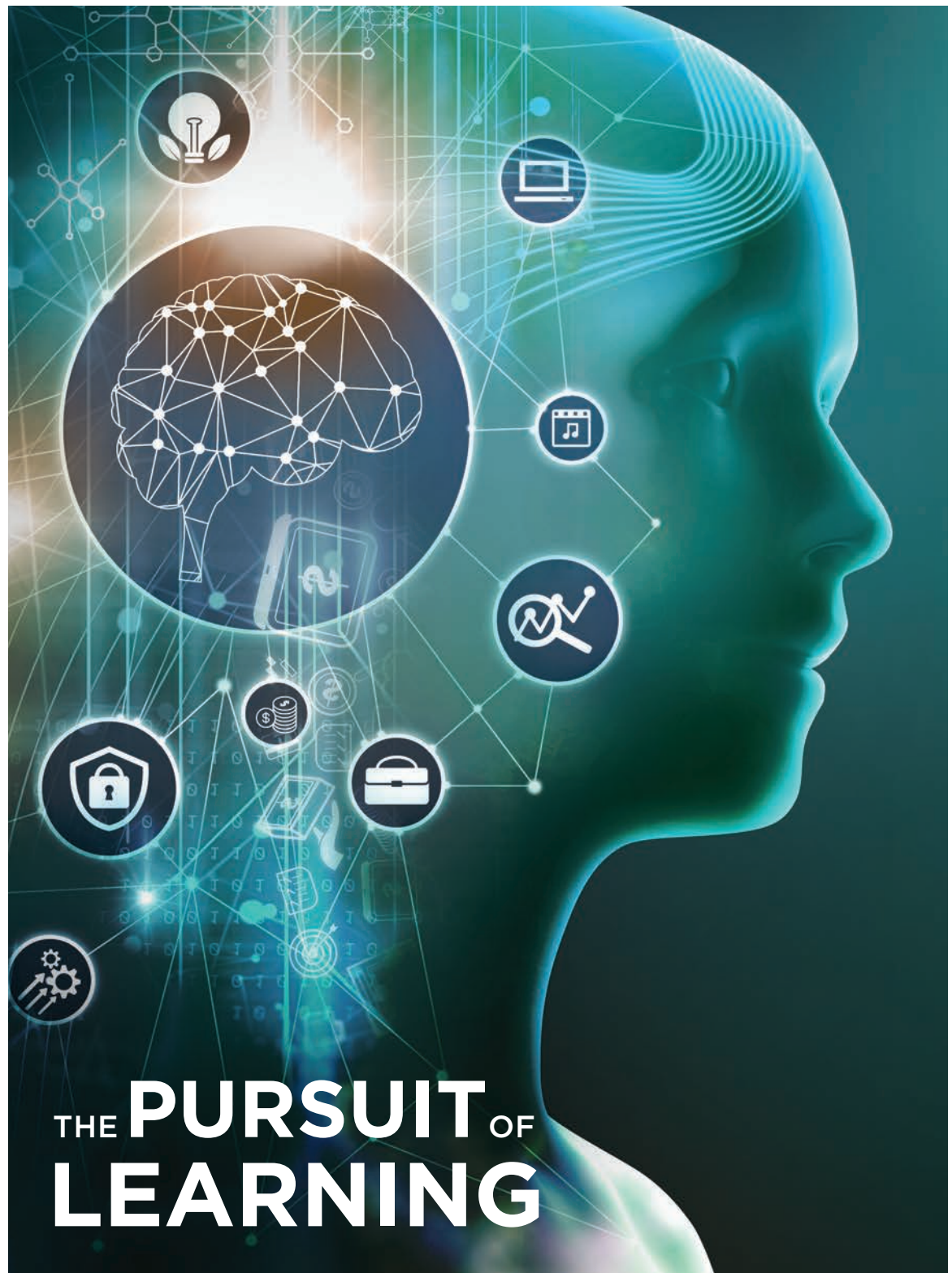


PUBLISHED FOR INDUSTRY PARTNERS OF REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC



THE PURSUIT OF LEARNING

NEWS & UPDATES
CREATING AND
INNOVATING FOR
THE FUTURE

01

PARTNERSHIP
MOVING
FORWARD WITH
THE INDUSTRY

04

IN CONVERSATION
MAKING LEARNING
RELEVANT AND
ACCESSIBLE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In today's economy, there is a rising demand for individuals and employees to upskill or reskill. With the SkillsFuture movement, many are also proactively taking ownership of their individual training and development needs.

At RP's recent Graduation Ceremony, we saw an increased number of lifelong learners who graduated alongside their pre-employment counterparts. This trend of mid-career upgrading shows that as demand for post-graduate education increases, industries and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) will have to cater to this new student demographic.

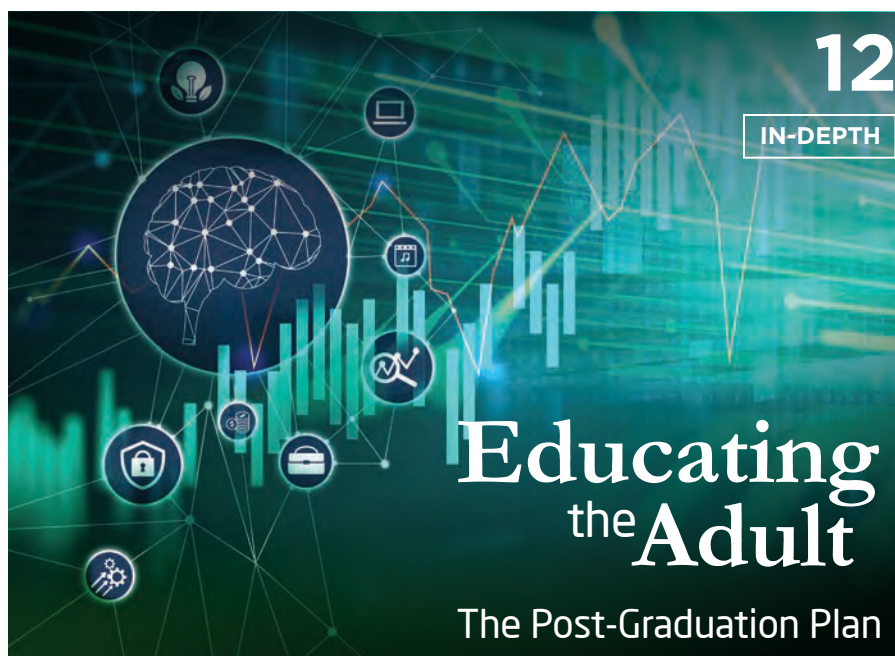
We are heartened to see industries and IHLs adjusting collaborative efforts to meet these evolving needs. One example is broadening the scope for joint programmes such as the Earn and Learn Programmes (ELPs) for polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates. RP is also aggressively ramping up its efforts as a Continuing Education and Training (CET) provider by opening its first CET campus at Lifelong Learning Institute @ Paya Lebar. This new campus aims to make juggling work and school easier for those pursuing a post-graduate education and/or those hoping to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Visit our In-Depth section (pages 12 to 15) and In Conversation section (pages 20 to 21) to find out more.

For IHLs to prepare their students for the workforce, it is imperative to continuously work in tandem with industries. In Partnership (pages 4 to 11), we look into recent collaborations with esteemed industry players — Ubisoft, FAS, Kaspersky Lab, IBM, NEA, SAP Asia, Hortonworks, MORTHE & POS, MCIL, IAS, ST Electronics, and CSC — which will all undoubtedly provide invaluable input to the future of work.

We encourage all our industry partners to keep up-to-date with the latest happenings and to continue playing a part as we are all responsible for preparing the next generation of the workforce for the challenges ahead.

From the incoRporate editorial team

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IN CONVERSATION

Informative industry snippets from the expert

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SCAN THE QR CODE

to connect with RP on LinkedIn® — your avenue for the latest industry-relevant news and events!





Cooking Up a Storm at the SOH Hospitality Race



(from left to right) Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, RP; champions Team Free Wifi from Chung Cheng High (Main) School; and Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Education

Organised by RP School of Hospitality (SOH) for a third consecutive year, many young talents had the chance to showcase their culinary skills at the SOH Hospitality Race.

This year's edition saw an unprecedented 258 entries from secondary school students, with 12 three-man teams sizzling their way to the finals held on 18 June 2018.

Armed with passion, determination, and curiosity about the industry, the teenagers were tasked with planning an event proposal, developing a themed menu, and navigating a final-day cook-off, with a surprise mystery ingredient to boot!

After four months of hard work, Team Free Wifi from Chung Cheng High (Main) School

emerged as champions with their winning dish, Pan-fried Salmon with Spiced Lamb Quiche.

Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Education (MOE), was present as Guest-of-Honour. He expressed MOE's commitment to providing students with experiences to help them identify their strengths and interests, which will in turn lead to more informed education and career choices.

As hospitality prodigies continue to be nurtured through such events, it looks to be a promising future for the next generation in the hospitality industry.

“Students have misconceptions about the hospitality industry, that it is just about being a waiter, bellboy, or chef. We wanted them to know that it is more than that, that it can be multidisciplinary and cover areas like sales, accounting, and finance as well.”

Ms Yeo May Lee, Assistant Director (Admin), School of Hospitality, RP on how the SOH Hospitality Race clarifies what the hospitality industry has to offer.

Innovate, Create, Demonstrate: innovfest unbound 2018

innovfest unbound 2018, a showcase of Asia's latest innovations, was held on 5 and 6 June at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre. With an attendance of over 13,000, it was the perfect opportunity for RP to exhibit the brightest of our newest inventions.

The four exhibits showcased were:

- **Ambidexter**, a portable rehabilitation tool to improve fine motor skills in children with developmental disorders
- **Multilingual speech-to-text transcriber & translator**, a low-cost assistive tool which facilitates effective communication
- **Security Solutions for Internet of Things (IoT) Smart Home Metering Systems**, which will enable the detection of tampered electricity meter readings
- **Equos-lite**, a modular docking and locking system which allows manual wheelchair users to convert their existing mobility device to a powered wheelchair



Equos-lite driven wheelchair

Contact us to explore innovation opportunities!

Email Help-OTD@rp.edu.sg for more details.

Safety First at the 3DP Challenge 2018

This year's 3D Printing (3DP) Challenge championed efforts to make riding safer for motorcyclists in Singapore.

Themed "Gear Up, Ride Safe", the challenge, which took place on 19 June 2018, saw secondary school students as well as RP students design safety accessories and wearables for motorcyclists, cyclists, and scooter riders for the first time ever.

The event, jointly organised by RP School of Engineering's Diploma in Industrial & Operations Management (DIOM) and RP Makerspace, and supported by Harley-Davidson Singapore, Network Hub Holdings (sponsors for the Fusion360 training), Creatz3D (sponsors for refreshments), Traffic Police, and Singapore Road Safety Council (SRSC), attracted 88 participants who not only put their creativity to work, but also attended a two-day workshop to learn Autodesk Fusion360, a printing software for creating 3D models.



Secondary school students and their teacher posing with a motorbike from event sponsor Harley-Davidson

Behind the Scenes: The Young Creators Project

Mediacorp, in collaboration with the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), launched the Young Creators Project, which gives budding content creators avenues to build on their creative aspirations.

With funding, mentorship, and access to a variety of production resources, the project is a golden opportunity for students to learn from game changers in the film-making industry.

To date, 11 short films have been produced by various polytechnics, including RP, and are now available for free viewing on Toggle.

Ms Emida Natalaray, Deputy Director, School of Technology for the Arts, RP said, "Through the Young Creators Project, our students applied what they learnt in the classroom to a real-world context and flexed their creativity in a professional setting. This allowed them to tell stories from their point of view and provided a millennial's take on what it means to be a young Singaporean in [today's] world."



Scan the QR code to
view the Young Creators
Project short films



A screen grab from the movie *Take Flight*



(from left to right) Mr Boo Chong-Han, Deputy Principal (Student Services and Organisational Development), RP; Mohammad Sharizan bin Ramli, student leader RP's Diploma in Electrical & Electronic Engineering; the winning team from Hillgrove Secondary School; and Dr Wang Jianguo, Director, School of Engineering, RP


Robotics Takes a Splash!


RP School of Engineering (SEG) organised the 10th edition of the Underwater Robotic Olympiad on 23 May 2018 in collaboration with Public Utilities Board (PUB) and Science Centre Singapore just in time for Marina Barrage's 10th year anniversary.


Themed "Project Water Wally", the task for this year was to build a remotely-controlled water quality monitoring smart robot.

With SEG student leaders acting as guides and PUB engineers sharing their expert knowledge, scores of secondary school students put their knowledge of robotics to good use, with the team from Hillgrove Secondary School getting top placing. ▼

 **10th** year
of the Olympiad

 **220** students
from
18 secondary
schools took
part

 **9** types of
water were
tested for
temperature, acidity,
and potability

 **30** SEG
student leaders
acted as guides

SAYING AYE TO A FUTURE OF GAMING WITH UBISOFT

Fun times are on the cards as RP and Ubisoft signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 4 June 2018. Selected students from RP School of Technology for the Arts (STA), in particular those pursuing a Diploma in Sonic Arts (DSA) and Diploma in Game Design (DGD), will enjoy the unique opportunity of working with Ubisoft, the leading creator and distributor of interactive entertainment.

Working closely with Ubisoft and STA staff, students will have hands-on experience in the production of foley effects and sound design in RP's Foley Arts Studio, the only full-scale studio of its kind in an Institute of Higher Learning. Partnerships with the industry are increasingly the focus in the future of education.

Ubisoft has already chosen STA to provide audio effects for its new online pirate-themed multiplayer

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game, “Skulls and Bones”, thus presenting STA students the golden opportunity to be involved in the creation, development, and execution of a blockbuster game.

The MOU will also allow both parties to grow together in the pursuit of knowledge of game sound design as well as enhance the existing curriculum via workshops and seminars. In addition, selected DSA and DGD students will be offered internship positions at Ubisoft, where they can hone their skills as they work towards a career in games. Ubisoft has also generously offered financial assistance to students who need support.

Mr Hugues Ricour, Director of Production, Ubisoft Singapore, stressed that technological changes in the gaming industry are constant and fast-paced, and that it is imperative for students to understand the entire gaming production process and keep up with changes and trends that affect the industry.

Mr James Young Chee Hin, a third-year DGD student, expressed his excitement over the collaboration with Ubisoft, “Ubisoft games are so large-scale and immersive — they allow their players so much freedom.” He added, “It would be amazing to be a part of creating something like that.”

01. Mr Hugues Ricour,
Director of Production,
Ubisoft Singapore

02. Looking forward to a future
of collaborative gaming

“The Ubisoft collaboration presents another learning opportunity for DSA students, beyond audio dubbing for films. With an understanding on the processes and requirements of audio production, our game design students will also be able to better design their games integrated with audio elements.”

Mr Sam Yap, Programme Chair, Diploma in Sonic Arts, School of Technology for the Arts, RP

“... this partnership will increase the body of knowledge for RP and give young sports scientists a greater exposure to football science.”

*Mr Bernard Tan,
Deputy President,
Football Association
of Singapore*



SCORING GOALS WITH FAS

RP and the Football Association of Singapore (FAS) surged into an era of collaboration as they collectively set up the RP-FAS Centre of Excellence (COE) for Football Science, which was declared open on 9 March 2018 by Mr Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Health, and Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC.

On the same day, both parties signed a three-year MOU with top priorities being facilitating the sharing of best practices, and FAS's education and engagement of RP students keen on sports science.

The MOU allows for the joint COE to be based in the Sports Engineering Lab at the RP Industry Centre, reaping benefits of expertise for both parties. Students will also enjoy more access to the sports industry through this effort.

The COE will focus on five key areas:



RP and FAS will work together to enhance the curriculum via laboratory-based activities, Continuing Education and Training (CET) courses, Final Year Projects, and specific academic modules related to the sports industry. Community outreach, in the form of sports events, will also be jointly organised by both parties.

01. The opening ceremony of the RP-FAS Centre of Excellence (COE) for Football Science

02. Mr Ashley Chua, Senior Director (Industry Services and SkillsFuture), RP (right) with Mr Stephan Neumeier, Managing Director APAC and Japan, Kaspersky Lab

03. The launch of IBM's P-TECH School Model

SECURING THE FUTURE WITH KASPERSKY LAB

Moscow-based multinational cybersecurity and antivirus provider Kaspersky Lab and RP signed a three-year MOU on 5 June 2018, opening the window to a varied scope of synergic activities.

Kaspersky Lab, which develops and provides antivirus, Internet security, password management, endpoint security, and other cybersecurity products and services will collaborate with RP in curriculum development, consultations, training, internships, and Final Year Projects. Such industry partnerships bode well for the future of education.

As the experts in the field of digital forensics, malware analysis, threat intelligence, threat hunting, and incident response, the collaboration with Kaspersky Lab offers many advantages and opportunities for RP's Diploma in Infocomm Security Management (DISM) students.

RP looks forward to working with Kaspersky Lab and taking the field of cybersecurity to greater heights.



03



LAYING NEW PATHWAYS WITH IBM

As the Singapore Government calls for a shift of focus from paper qualifications to recognising skills and contributions to society, it was the perfect timing for IBM to announce the launch of the Pathways in Technology Early College High-Schools (P-TECH) School Model. In partnership with participating Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), including RP, an MOU was signed during the launch on 9 July 2018.

The P-TECH School Model will provide Institute of Technical Education (ITE) students with early exposure to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Science, Technology,

Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. They will learn the necessary skills needed for this career path, with the support of IBM and the participating IHLs. The model will provide industry mentorship and internships for these students.

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education, who was present at the launch and MOU signing, said, "The urgent need for skilled STEM talent is a global phenomenon and one that IBM has been keenly aware of. P-TECH was a direct response by IBM to the global skills crisis and is very much in line with the needs and strategy of Singapore as a nation."



02



01

LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S NEEDS WITH SAP

Singapore's ICT sector was given a boost as SAP Asia, SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), and the five local polytechnics signed a MOU to launch the SAP Skills University Singapore.

The SAP Skills University Singapore is not a conventional educational institute. Instead, it is a set of training programmes for mid-career professionals and polytechnic graduates in the ICT field.

The polytechnics and SAP Asia will work closely to develop these programmes and skew the curriculum to meet the industry's specific needs. One of the programmes' biggest roles will be to train Singaporeans to take on ICT-related jobs as well as to forecast future skills required in the ICT sector. This is in order to train skilled individuals for upcoming roles within the sector.

Two work-learn programmes will be made available for mid-career individuals who wish to enter the ICT sector. There will also be a programme for fresh polytechnic graduates keen on a future in ICT.

"Equipping the workforce with the right skills is critical for any organisation or economy to be future-ready," said Mr Khor Chern Chuen, Managing Director, SAP Asia.



GOING ENVIRONMENTAL WITH NEA

As a green campus and the first and only Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) to offer a full diploma course for the Environmental Services (ES) industry, RP is proud to be one of the 11 newly-integrated members of the INnovating and CUrating Better Automation and Technologies for Environmental Services (INCUBATE) programme.

The INCUBATE programme embodies the alliance between technology providers and service providers, premises owners, and the government, with a common aim to innovate new and better technological advances, ideas, and solutions for the ES industry.

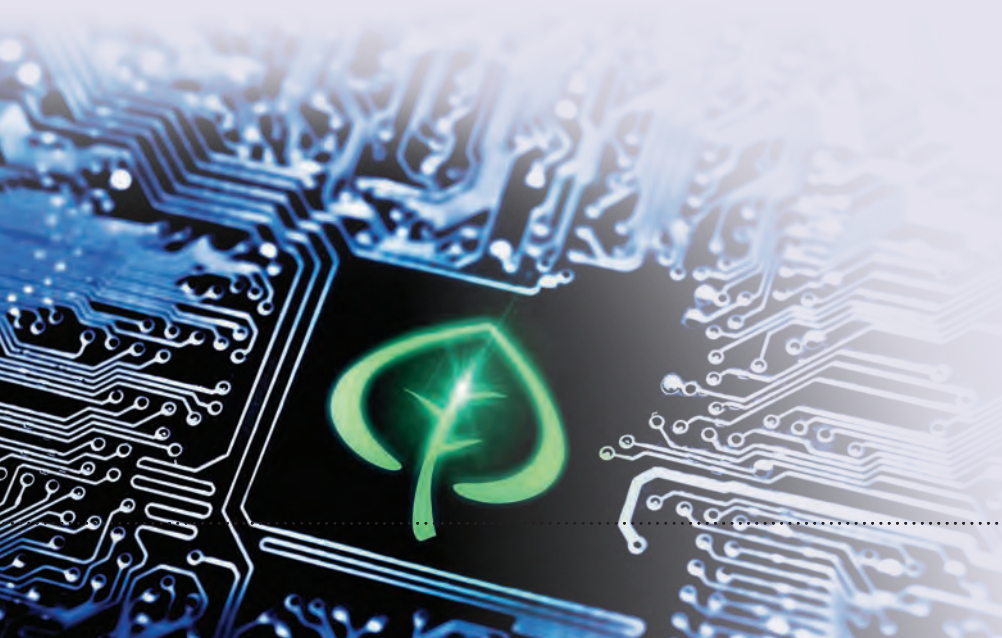
The signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) with the National Environment Agency (NEA) during the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore

2018, held from 8 to 12 July, now puts RP into the community that innovates and strives for best practices in the area of ES.

Some of the initiatives that RP has proposed to be in line with INCUBATE's call to action are:

- ⚙ Outcome-based contracting for cleaning tenders
- ⚙ Online cleaning performance review and evaluation
- ⚙ Tray return at canteens/eateries
- ⚙ Toilet sensors and on-demand cleaning
- ⚙ Trackable vacuum robots

It is indeed a privilege and honour to be part of the INCUBATE family and RP looks forward to taking the campus to greener heights!





03

Dr Michael Koh, Deputy Principal (Academic Services), RP said, "For over 15 years, RP has provided students with a holistic learning experience and nurtured them into industry-ready professionals. We look forward to sharing our pedagogical practices and knowledge with the Indonesian polytechnics through this partnership."

FORGING TIES WITH MORTHE AND POS INDONESIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Collaborations were taken across seas as RP signed two MOUs with Indonesian counterparts on 12 March 2018.

The two MOUs, signed with the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia (MORTHE) and POS Indonesia Educational Foundation respectively, cover a 24-month programme which will focus on boosting technical education courses in the area of supply chain management for e-commerce offered by leading polytechnics in Indonesia.

RP's Problem-based Learning (PBL) pedagogy, a learner-centric approach with strong industry focus, will be shared with 120 participants from Indonesian polytechnics and government agencies. RP will also offer training in LEAN thinking (Eliminate waste. Do more with less.) for supply chain management, supply chain analytics, and disruptive technologies in e-commerce.

Training resources will be supported by a generous grant of more than S\$480,000 by Temasek Foundation International, and co-funded by the two Indonesian bodies.



02

MANAGING DATA, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HORTONWORKS

Another meaningful collaboration was sealed as RP and Hortonworks put their names to a three-year long MOU, signed on 29 June 2018.

With the MOU, both parties will work together to develop a framework for cooperation in the fields of big data, data management, data science, and machine learning. RP staff and students will also be given opportunities to get involved in projects involving Hortonworks' technologies, specifically in the fields of Data Analytics (DA), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Additionally, Hortonworks, a leading provider of enterprise-grade, global data management platforms, services, and solutions, will provide staff attachments, and potentially academic awards, diploma prizes, and book prizes for RP students.



04

01. Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources
02. Mr Boo Chong-Han, Deputy Principal (Student Services and Organisational Development), RP (first from right) and Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (fourth from left) at the launch of the SAP Skills University Singapore
03. Dr Michael Koh, Deputy Principal (Academic Services), RP (left) signing the MOU with his Indonesian counterpart
04. Mr Ashley Chua, Senior Director (Industry Services and SkillsFuture), RP (left) with Mr Kamal Brar, Vice President & General Manager, Hortonworks Asia Pacific & Middle East at the signing of the MOU between RP and Hortonworks



FEELING HOSPITABLE WITH MCIL

RP signed a year-long Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Millennium & Copthorne International Limited (MCIL) on 19 May 2018 at M Social Singapore.

M Social Singapore, a hotel under the MCIL hotel group, is currently utilising autonomous robot solutions AURA (a room service robot) and AUSCA (a chef robot that cooks eggs). The innovative solutions were developed in consultation with RP School of Hospitality (SOH).

In addition, SOH is working with MCIL to implement more technological and innovative solutions.

The partnership is poised to open doors to joint programmes, projects, student attachments, site visits, scholarships, and book prizes for RP students, as well as staff exchange programmes. Both parties will collaborate to organise CET courses, training and development programmes for MCIL staff, and joint research to enhance RP's curriculum in areas of hospitality.



TAKING A DIVE WITH IAS

Industry representatives and parents of RP's Diploma in Marine Science & Aquaculture (DMAC) students came together at a networking event on 6 June 2018 during a Year 1 camp for the students.

Industry partners shared about the ins and outs of the marine science and aquaculture fields to create mindshare and increase awareness of how these industries play a growing part in Singapore's and the region's economy.

An MOU was also signed during the event between the Institution of Aquaculture Singapore (IAS) and RP. The MOU will open doors and create opportunities for joint programmes and events, internships and Final Year Projects for RP students, training for students, staff and industry partners, scholarships for students, and staff attachment opportunities.

RP is looking forward to this partnership to boost opportunities and create better learning outcomes for our students.



TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC SECTOR WITH CSC

In a mass effort to boost training and qualification levels among the public sector workforce, the Civil Service College (CSC) partnered with 12 Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), including RP, on 17 July 2018 at the SkillsFuture Festival @ SMU.

All involved parties will work together to support lifelong learning, reskilling, and upskilling among public officers. The role of the IHLs will include curating SkillsFuture Series modules that are relevant for the training of the public sector. All courses will be launched online and will provide

just-in-time learning resources and contents in areas such as digital literacy. The digital learning platform will also allow officers to connect across the public service, thus supporting cross agency peer-learning and encouraging connections between agencies.

“We are able to pool together our different areas of expertise to provide quality digital content that would equip our public sector workforce with the skills to do today’s and tomorrow’s jobs well,” remarked Ms Ong Toon Hui, Dean and CEO, CSC.



CONTINUING THE ST ELECTRONICS CONNECTION

As the industry dives head first into technological advancements such as Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), it was apt that RP cemented its third collaboration with ST Electronics (Training & Simulation) [STEE (T&S)] with the signing of a Cooperation Agreement on 13 March 2018.

The agreement will boost alliances as both parties aim to work together on areas that include:

- **Industry 4.0 projects**, including VR and AR training projects
- **System Upgrade of the Virtual Aerodrome Lab (VAL)**, which was commissioned in December 2013. The upgraded system will enhance students’ learning via new aerodrome aids and enabling bi-directional runway usage, among others.

- **Development and Conduct of CET courses** in areas of aviation, VR/AR, IoT, and electronic engineering
- **Internship Placements and Final Year Projects**
- **Staff Attachments** via the Industry Associate Scheme

The agreement was penned at an event that showcased various VR and AR solutions developed by STEE (T&S), ranging from situational driving to procedural training at an electrical power station.

There is much potential to the partnership and RP looks forward to a thrilling line-up of projects and opportunities. ■



01. (from left) Mr James Lee, Director, School of Hospitality, RP; Mr Ashley Chua, Senior Director (Industry Services and SkillsFuture), RP; Mr Alex Ang, Global Senior Vice President (Human Resources), Millennium & Copthorne International Limited; and Ms Grace Nah, Vice President (Human Resources, Asia), Millennium & Copthorne International Limited at the signing of the MOU
02. Dr Lim Boon Whatt, Director, School of Applied Science, RP (right) with Mr Dames Lim, President, Institution of Aquaculture Singapore at the signing of the MOU
03. A simulator demonstration of ST Electronics (Training & Simulation)’s situational driving solutions

IN-DEPTH

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INCORPORATE

Educating the Adult

The Post-Graduation Plan

From a tender age, many of us and our families have dreamt of our graduation day — the day our school lives end and a path to a successful career is found.

Fast forward to the realities of today, and it is apparent that to meet the ever-evolving demands of future industries, learning never ceases. Lifelong learning becomes the new paradigm, and skills mastery paves the way to professional excellence.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

From 2 to 9 May 2018, over 4,700 Pre-Employment (PET) and Continuing Education and Training (CET) RP students collected their diplomas and started the journey of their respective futures. Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, graced RP's 13th Graduation Ceremony, where adaptability and continuous learning took centre stage as the event's theme.

Among those who received their diplomas were PET Board of Governors (BOG) Award Winner Ms Nadia Malik and CET graduate Ms Dean Ng.

Ms Malik, who graduated with RP's Diploma in Media Production & Design (DMPD), has always been a top student, earning inductions into the Director's Roll of Honour and winning multiple prizes, scholarships, and awards. For her hard work, she was the Board of Governors' choice as BOG Award Winner 2018, which is presented to the most outstanding graduate of the year.

"My course has equipped me with more than just media production and design skillsets as I got to learn about communication skills too!" remarked Ms Malik.

Ms Ng wanted to learn more about nutrition, which led to her taking up the Part-Time Diploma in Food and Nutrition with RP. Embracing lifelong learning has been a difficult



Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (second from left) and Mr David Wong, Chairman, Board of Governors, RP (left) with 2018 RP Board of Governors award recipient Ms Nadia Malik, a Media Production & Design Diploma graduate, and her mother. Ms Malik is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

but nevertheless fruitful journey as she shared, "The learning curve was rather steep, but the learning culture among students and the dedication of the lecturers kept me going."

Ms Ng concurrently runs three companies — The Fourkids Family (which focuses on pet care), The Affirmative People (which conducts workshops on nutrition, health, and wellness), and Wild Flavonoids. She intends to use the knowledge gained from her diploma studies to open another company that manufactures food for seniors and pets.

Ms Dean Ng, Diploma in Food and Nutrition, 2018 Graduate, currently a company director of Wild Flavonoids (left) with Dr Serene Choo, Assistant Programme Chair, Diploma in Biotechnology, RP





Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, (front row, third from right) at SG Perspectives 2018



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was the Guest-of-Honour at the first session of SG Perspectives 2018 on 11 July 2018. Addressing 250 selected students from RP School of Infocomm (SOI), Dr Balakrishnan touched on various aspects of the Smart Nation Initiative and hosted a discussion on how the digital revolution would impact many facets of life, including work.

Dr Balakrishnan was deeply impressed by SOI students during the seminar, particularly Mr Patrick Goh, a Year 3 Diploma in Information Technology (DIT) student in his early 60s, whom he cited as a great example of lifelong learning.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

With the future of work heavily dependent on lifelong learning, RP has taken steps to drive several initiatives to support this trend. Among them are the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme (ELP) as well as expanding pathways of polytechnic admissions for working adults.

The ELP, which was the highlight of the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Carnival held on 28 July 2018, is a work-learn programme with the aim of inculcating lifelong learning and skills mastery through innovative and experiential learning experiences.

Since its inception, about 2,400 fresh polytechnic and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) graduates have benefitted from the programme. During the carnival, Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Manpower, announced some new developments for the programme. ▀

WHAT'S NEW FOR ELP?

SkillsFuture Work-Learn Bootcamp



Employers will be involved in developing industry-relevant curriculum and recruiting participants for the bootcamp



8 to 12 weeks of intensive training



Equip fresh graduates and mid-career professionals with relevant job-specific behaviours, mindsets, and skills

New ELPs in the areas of:



Healthy Ageing and Community Care for Seniors



Applied Artificial Intelligence

“The ELP’s work-learn pathway allows a substantial part of the curriculum to be delivered through structured on-the-job training at the workplace. Hence, its success depends on strong commitment and support from the industry.”

Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Manpower



(from left) Mr Ashley Chua, Senior Director (Industry Services and SkillsFuture), RP; Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Manpower; and Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/CEO, RP at the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Carnival

From Finesse Finals to the FUTURE

The 13th edition of the premier national skills competition, WorldSkills Singapore (WSS) took place at the Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre from 5 to 7 July, where the nation's best young talents competed in 26 skills areas.

This year's theme, "Our Skills, Our Future", recognises and acknowledges the diversity of talents that our nation's young people possess, and accentuates how, through skills mastery and lifelong learning, we can secure a better future for ourselves.

NEW FEATURES OF WSS 2018



Nine new skills areas have been added

- ▶ 3D Digital Game Art
- ▶ Automobile Technology
- ▶ Beauty Therapy
- ▶ Cyber Security
- ▶ Fashion Technology
- ▶ Freight Forwarding
- ▶ Water Technology
- ▶ Rapid Transit Systems
- ▶ Hairdressing



Autonomous Universities (AUs) students participating for the first time



Education & Career Guidance

- ▶ Free talks and workshops
- ▶ Interactive exhibition

RP MAKES A SPLASH AT WSS 2018

A total of **27 students** from RP School of Engineering (SEG), School of Hospitality (SOH), School of Infocomm (SOI), and School of Technology for the Arts (STA), supported by 27 coaches, participated in 12 skill areas.

RP brought home 9 medals at WSS 2018

- ▶ Ryan Liak, SOH
Cooking (Gold)
- ▶ Vanesia Erico Tan, SOH
Restaurant Service (Gold)
- ▶ Jerome Lim, SOH
Cooking (Silver)
- ▶ Vivian Hung, SOH
Restaurant Service (Silver)
- ▶ Mark Seow, SEG
Information Network Cabling (Bronze)
- ▶ Muhammad Hirfan, STA
Graphic Design Technology (Medallion of Excellence)
- ▶ Angel Shu, STA
Graphic Design Technology (Medallion of Excellence)
- ▶ Johnny Pan & Ryan Yu, SOI
Cyber Security (Medallion of Excellence)



RP's representatives and winners at Worldskills Singapore 2018

The winners of WSS 2018 get to represent Singapore at the regional and international levels of the WorldSkills Competition (WSC).

At the regional level, three RP students headed to the 12th WorldSkills ASEAN 2018 Competition in Bangkok, Thailand from 31 August to 2 September 2018. They are Ryan Liak, Vanesia Erico Tan, and Jerome Lim (who was awarded the Medallion of Excellence in the cooking category).

Following this, Jerome and Vanesia Erico will represent Singapore at the WSC 2019, to be held in Kazan, Russia. We wish them all the best!

Contrary to what some might expect, Jerome seldom cooks at home. Instead, he relied more on his passion and enjoyment of being in the kitchen to help him clinch the Medallion of Excellence. He remarked, "Sweating over a hot stove may not be the most glamorous of jobs, but I feel that it is important to do something that you love."



WEARING YOUR HEALTH AND CASH ON YOUR SLEEVE



Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (seated front row, fourth from left), with representatives from POSB, RP, and People's Association

Killing two birds with one stone was the name of the game as POSB launched its trial cashless programme for seniors on 5 May 2018.

The POSB Smart Senior programme, a collaboration involving POSB, People's Association (PA), RP School of Management and Communication (SMC), and the Yishun Riverwalk Residents' Committee, aims to bridge the gap between our ageing population and the increasingly cashless society we live in.

Trial participants aged 55 and above were recruited for a three-month trial and given an ATM card that can also be used to pay for public transport. The card is held in a unique casing called a "Smart Sleeve".

Apart from providing the convenience of its multi-use function, the POSB Smart Senior card has the added luxury of

being directly linked to the user's bank account, hence eliminating the need to constantly top up its stored value. In addition, the Smart Sleeve is embedded with a step-tracking function to monitor the user's level of physical activity.

Users who clock 100,000 steps and make at least 10 contactless payments with the card in the span of a month will get an incentive of up to \$50 credited to their bank accounts.

SMC students were involved in the project from the development stage right up to guiding seniors on how to use the device.

Ms Tiffany Goh, a Year 2 SMC student, said, "This programme is truly meaningful as it bridges the gap between the elderly and technology. It will benefit them by making their daily routines more convenient through the use of technology."

Benefits of the POSB Smart Senior device



Can be used as an ATM card



Can be used as a public transport fare card



Does not require top ups



Keeps track of level of activity



Provides cash incentives

NEVER TOO OLD FOR THE DIGITAL BANDWAGON



A DSEM student helping a senior to navigate the Internet

A quick glance around a crowded bus or train would bring an almost constant observation — the young with heads bent, staring at phones, and the seniors, looking up and around, with no phone in sight.

While it is a good habit to enjoy the sights and sounds of one's surroundings, it also brings up the question if this phenomenon stems from seniors' inability or lack of understanding in using mobile devices.

The Intergenerational Digital Literacy Programme, an initiative

by RP's Diploma in Social Enterprise Management (DSEM) and supported by the Media Literacy Council, was thus born to help seniors understand mobile devices, and use the Internet for social media, mobile commerce, or eCitizen services safely.

Ms Ng Shi Ting, a Year 2 DSEM student and a student leader for the workshop, believes that if seniors are able to navigate around the digital world on their own, they will not be left behind by an increasingly tech-savvy society.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." And the giving spirit prevailed when more than 100 students from RP School of Management and Communication (SMC) took part in a pay-it-forward event, #IBelanjaYou.

Held on 12 May 2018, the event was intended to create awareness of the fact that kindness can be by anyone and for everyone.

SMC students took to the streets across four locations to give out Uplift Cards, a card with a treat voucher, to the public and to encourage them to pay it forward by "belanja-ing" someone else.

The movement, organised by Uplifter Singapore and supported by the Singapore Kindness Movement, PSA International, and RP, was a success and left everyone who participated feeling that much better about themselves just by a small, simple gesture of kindness.

A SMC student giving out Uplift Cards to a member of the public to spread awareness of the #IBelanjaYou movement



SURGERY WOES, AWAY YOU GO!

The Alice Lee Centre for Nursing Studies, under the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS) teamed up with RP School of Technology for the Arts (STA) to develop a mobile application to help children destress before undergoing surgery.

To allay pre-surgery woes, RP's Diploma in Game Design (DGD)

students created three mobile games that featured various medical tools that children might encounter during surgery. By portraying the illnesses as villains, the students hoped that the young patients would find comfort and relief after playing the games and understanding the uses of various medical tools and equipment.



One of the games, *Surgination*, was developed to help children destress before undergoing surgery



Children with ASD interacting with sensory-friendly props on the set of *Toby's Journey*

COMFORTING THEATRE

While many of us would have heard about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), not many would know that a good number of those living with ASD have sensitivity issues spanning the visual and audio fields.

RP's Diploma in Arts & Theatre Management (DATM) Year 1 to 3 students, as well as Drama Interest Group (IG) students, were determined to give that particular subset of ASD sufferers a better experience at the theatre.

The result was the birth of a sensory-friendly theatre.

By using sensory-friendly props and costumes, interactive elements, a reduction of loud and sudden sounds and flashing lights, and house rules that allowed for the audience to talk or move about during the show, the DATM students were able to give ASD children and their families a positively unforgettable day at the theatre.

REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

RP School of Engineering (SEG) students had a chance to give back to the community by utilising their knowledge of various applications and websites to walk beneficiaries from five different Volunteer Welfare Organisations (VWOs) through utilising their mobile phones for various needs.

The students conducted interviews to find out individual needs and then guided the beneficiaries through

various government websites, entertainment applications, daily needs technologies, and many more.

Over a five-day programme, students were paired with beneficiaries, and towards the end of the programme, beneficiaries were encouraged to practise what they had learnt by trying to navigate their way through the Singapore Sports Hub and the Singapore Sports Museum. ■



RP School of Engineering students encouraging a senior beneficiary to explore various mobile apps



GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

RP is offering its Continuing Education and Training (CET) programme outside its Woodlands campus to reach out to more adult learners. Mr Ashley Chua, Senior Director (Industry Services and SkillsFuture), RP, tells us why learning outside the classroom and continued learning are crucial to staying relevant.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr Chua was with RP School of Applied Science and was later seconded to the Ministry of Education, where he undertook portfolios pertaining to Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) policies, operations, planning, as well as CET. Mr Chua's current role involves guiding teams engaged in CET, SkillsFuture-related initiatives, industry collaborations, and international relations.

“The higher education landscape is expected to shift significantly over the next few years. Institutions can certainly play a larger role in preparing not just fresh school leavers but also employees and working adults for the evolving workplace.”



Q How does RP work with the industry for collaborations on innovation and projects?

A We adopt an integrated approach to understand our industry partners' challenges and needs. Collaborations with our industry partners come in various forms, each of which can be seen as a piece of a larger puzzle. These individual pieces include student internships, staff attachments, industry projects, and CET. We then customise them to better fit the needs of our partners.

Q How have initiatives like the Industry Attachment Scheme (IAS) helped in the moulding of curriculum?

A RP colleagues are exposed to nascent industry trends and developments when they are attached to companies. When they return from their IAS, they are more equipped to translate these developments into authentic scenarios for our students or develop new teaching and learning facilities. This keeps our curriculum current and relevant which in turn helps to ensure that our students graduate with the necessary skills and competencies to meet our industry partners' needs.

Q How have RP's industry engagements better prepared RP students for their careers?

A Our strong relationship with industry partners have helped us garner a wide range of internship opportunities for our students. These internships help our students adapt to their fast-paced work environment and become industry-ready. Through experiences gained during internships and projects, our students have been able to build and hone relevant skillsets and competencies to prepare them for the real working world.

Q What is the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn Programme (ELP)? What are the ELPs that RP offers and do share with us why is it gaining increasing popularity?

A The ELP is a structured 12 to 18 month work-learn scheme designed for fresh polytechnic and ITE graduates, and RP offers ELPs in diverse fields to meet the industry demand.

Our ELPs are well supported by industry partners, which allows us to offer participants attractive career progression opportunities. By taking up ELP, participants can thus look forward to a structured career progression. Participants are often drawn to the on-the-job training offered by our industry partners, who are also their employers. This arrangement provides the opportunity for participants to learn and build skills which can be immediately applied to the workplace.

(For more information about ELPs RP has to offer, visit: <https://www.rp.edu.sg/skillsfuture>)

Q RP's CET programmes are also offered at the Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) @ Paya Lebar. How does this facility benefit the adult learners?

A A common predicament amongst adult learners is the need to juggle work and studies. They often find it challenging to travel too far to their training venue. Through our facility at LLI, RP's programmes are now brought closer to adult learners who live and work within the vicinity and in the central area. In addition, our new learning facility at LLI is easily accessible via public transport, hence it is a convenient location for adult learners.

Q What do you envision for the next 10 years in terms of demographic of students and programmes conducted?

A In the next 10 years, we foresee RP's total part-

time student enrolment to grow significantly relative to our full-time students. In terms of programmes, there will be a good mix of full qualification programmes such as Part-Time Diplomas or Specialist Diplomas as well as short courses such as the SkillsFuture Series programmes. Learning will also take on several forms—face-to-face in classrooms, workplace-based learning, or through online or mobile app-based learning platforms. ♥

Courses which will commence from October 2018 at Republic Polytechnic Academy for Continuing Education (RP ACE) @ Paya Lebar



Specialist Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence



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