

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Singapore and Myanmar partner to develop local enterprise for sustainable social and community development**

**Temasek Foundation, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic tie-up with Myanmar's Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to support new training programme for 100 leaders and specialists**

**SINGAPORE AND MYANMAR, 29 AUGUST 2014** - Temasek Foundation (TF), Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) have partnered Myanmar's Department of Social Welfare (DSW), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) to support and enhance the development of local enterprise in Myanmar.

Myanmar's economy has progressed steadily over the past several years, with a projected 7.5% growth rate for 2014. With 99.4% of the country's businesses comprising local SMEs, the Myanmar government is committed to strengthen its domestic business environment to achieve sustainable economic growth and finance social services and development initiatives.

Aligned with this objective, Myanmar's DSW has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TF, RP and NP to launch the "Capability Building and Local Enterprise Development Programme for Leaders and Specialists in Myanmar". The programme aims to boost the capacity and skills of administrative leaders, specialists and productivity leaders across various states in Myanmar to assist in the development of local enterprise.

Jointly supported by Temasek Foundation and MSWRR, the S\$973,000 initiative will be launched in three phases over two and a half years. Over the course of the programme, experts from NP and RP will conduct workshops to equip 50 leaders and 50 specialists from Myanmar with a structured framework to share knowledge and skills in public administration to support and align the growth of local entrepreneurship for sustainable social and community development.

"Entrepreneurship is one of the key drivers for economic growth. Through this programme, a team of trainers will share Singapore's experience in development and management of local enterprises with their Myanmar counterparts. We hope this sharing will contribute towards policies and guidelines for local entrepreneurship and create a robust environment for local enterprise development in Myanmar," said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation.

The first phase of the programme, facilitated by experts from NP, will focus on training senior government officials in strategic planning, human resource development, entrepreneurship, corporate governance and sound financial practices. It includes a study mission to Singapore, where the participants will learn various business models of excellence and best practices of Singapore social enterprises.

"We are honoured to be part of the joint initiative to share Ngee Ann Polytechnic's expertise with Myanmar. We hope our experience in business education in Singapore and the region will assist Myanmar in building up its capabilities and local enterprise," said Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.



The second phase will focus on training specialists to develop policies to support local enterprise development and in effective teaching pedagogy to better engage adult learners who will cascade the implementation of policies developed. RP will facilitate workshops supporting local enterprise capability development in areas such as enterprise planning and administration, strategy implementation, social enterprise and volunteer management, marketing and branding. RP's Problem-based Learning pedagogical approach will be introduced to participants as a unique tool for developing people.

Upon the completion of both training phases, a two-day management review programme will see the participants present their findings to the two polytechnics' senior staff on the implementation feasibility of their ideas. They will then work with other public sector productivity leaders in their country to develop strategic plans aligned to Myanmar's economic and societal context.

"We are privileged to share our expertise with a fast-growing nation such as Myanmar. I am confident that through this joint partnership with TF and NP, we will be able to contribute to enterprise development and, ultimately, economic growth in Myanmar. With similar partnerships previously launched in Sri Lanka and Indonesia since 2011, RP has expanded sharing of its pedagogical expertise and capabilities overseas, engaging in global learning beyond Singapore's borders," said Republic Polytechnic's Principal/CEO, Mr Yeo Li Pheow.

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### **About Temasek Foundation**

Temasek Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organisation anchored in Singapore that seeks to contribute to sustainable growth and a bright future of hope and opportunities for people in Asia. The foundation works with partners to support programmes that build people through health care and education, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through governance and ethics, programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters. For more information, visit [www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://www.temasekfoundation.org.sg)

### **About Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

Inaugurated in 1963 as Ngee Ann College with only 116 students, Ngee Ann Polytechnic is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with more than 16,000 full-time students, about 2,000 part-time students and an alumni community of over 140,000.

The polytechnic offers 49 full-time courses through its nine academic schools - School of Business & Accountancy, School of Design & Environment, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology. Ngee Ann also supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy which offers a wide range of part-time programmes.

Learning takes place amid a caring and conducive environment with top-notch facilities ranging from broadcast, multimedia and animation studios to research laboratories as well as simulation and technology centres. With our emphasis on broad-based learning, global exposure and character development, Ngee Ann Polytechnic's vision is to prepare graduates with a passion for learning, values for life and competencies to thrive in a global workplace.



For more information, please visit [www.np.edu.sg](http://www.np.edu.sg).

### **About Republic Polytechnic**

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has six schools and two academic centres offering thirty-seven diplomas in Infocomm, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Events and Hospitality, Enterprise, and Communication.

Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and lifelong learning opportunities. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum, covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive processes, prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society.

Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO9001, ISO14001, OHSAS 18001, SS540, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class.

For more information, visit [www.rp.edu.sg](http://www.rp.edu.sg)

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