



**News Release
For Immediate Release**

Temasek Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation to support public health education and nutrition intervention programme in Lao PDR

The Ministry of Health in Lao PDR, Temasek Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation are teaming up to initiate a three-year capacity building training programme on Public Healthcare and Nutrition Intervention. With a S\$223,430 grant from Temasek Foundation, trainers from Temasek Polytechnic will share their knowledge in nutrition intervention with 100 public health and nutrition officials from schools, hospitals and health centres across Lao PDR.

The opening ceremony of the Public Healthcare and Nutrition Intervention Programme was held today in Vientiane, Lao PDR, officiated by H.E Prof Eksavang Vongvichit, Minister of Health, Lao PDR. Also present was Mr Dominic Goh, Singapore Ambassador to Lao PDR, Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation, and Dr Lee Chee Wee, Director, School of Applied Science, Temasek Polytechnic.

Over the next two years, the 100 public health and nutrition officials will learn about health and nutrition related knowledge, such as meal planning, healthier meal preparation, health education and illness prevention. This will enable them to train health educators and school teachers on ways to design healthier and more nutritious meals in schools.

The participants will also gain knowledge on nutrition assessment skills, which will enable them to carry out basic nutrition assessment to monitor the health status of the target groups, identified by the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR. To extend the impact of

the programme to the wider community, the 100 participants will also share their knowledge with another 200 of their peers.

Training will be conducted both in Singapore and Lao PDR. It commences in Vientiane from 14 to 18 December 2015, followed by two-week training in Singapore in March 2016.

“Enhancing capabilities in health care in communities is a key priority for Temasek Foundation. With continuous training, health care professionals will be able to meet the needs of their respective communities. We hope that our support in this training will enable the sharing and exchange between the health care professionals in Lao PDR and Singapore, and play a small role in Lao PDR’s efforts in enhancing its public health care in the long run”, said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation.

“Temasek Polytechnic shares the Foundation’s vision to contribute to a future filled with opportunities for everyone, in a connected and prosperous Asia. We are happy to share our expertise in this effort to see to the training of health educators, counsellors, school teachers and leaders at these nutrition centres in the Lao PDR,” said Mr Boo Kheng Hua, Principal & CEO of Temasek Polytechnic.

“We are grateful that Temasek Foundation and Temasek Polytechnic have come together to partner us in making this a sustainable community development project to help develop local capability to improve the nutritional status of women and children in Lao PDR,” said His Excellency, Prof Eksavang Vongvichit. “The long term goal of this project is to explore the potential setting up of a Lao Nutritional Centre using the local capabilities developed from this programme.”

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About Temasek Polytechnic

Temasek Polytechnic (TP) is a significant contributor to the field of para-professional education in Singapore. TP currently offers 51 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 20 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment.

The Polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These approaches ensure that TP graduates are economy relevant, future relevant and life relevant. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg

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, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters. For more information, visit www.temasekfoundation.org.sg

About Ministry of Health, Lao PDR

The Lao Ministry of Health is the government agency that carries out the functions for state management of people's health. This includes health prevention and promotion, communicable diseases control, health care and rehabilitation services, food & drug administration, traditional medicine, human resource for health and social health protection.