



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**27 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **AIC ties up with five local polytechnics to boost volunteerism and professional exposure for students**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) has established partnerships with each of the five local polytechnics to expand volunteering opportunities in the Community Care sector for students. Through curated volunteering programmes, AIC will open up opportunities for students of each polytechnic to deepen their knowledge on ageing and apply their classroom learnings to real-world experiences.

2. The inking of the five Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) took place this morning. The signatories involved are Mr Tan Kwang Cheak, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AIC, and the Principal & CEO (PCEOs) or Deputy Principals of each of the five polytechnics. They are Ms Loh Chuu Yi of Nanyang Polytechnic, Mr Lim Kok Kiang of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Ms Jeanne Liew of Republic Polytechnic, Mr Loh Yew Chiong of Singapore Polytechnic, and Mr Peter Lam of Temasek Polytechnic.

3. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Minister for Health Mr Ong Ye Kung, who attended the event as the Guest-of-Honour.

#### **From classroom to real-world**

4. Over the years, the five polytechnics have been grooming professionals for the healthcare and Community Care sectors through their academic courses in the areas of Social Sciences, Social Work, Gerontology, and Sports & Health. As many of these students go on to specialise in the holistic management of ageing, where they plan practical programmes for seniors and mobilise resources to support older adults with diverse needs, they would benefit from additional avenues to further equip them with hands-on experience in working with seniors.

5. The new agreements signed would facilitate this through volunteering opportunities with AIC. During the sessions, students from these courses can expect practical, first-hand exposure to what they have learned in the classrooms. Such experiences will encourage a spirit of volunteerism among students, and their contribution to the Community Care sector.

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*AIC signs MOUs with 5 local polytechnics at Tzu Chi AAC (First row, from L-R: Mr Sng Hock Lin, Chief of AIC's Silver Generation Office; Ms Low Chuu Yi, Mr Low Yew Chiong, Mr Low Swee Seh, CEO of Tzu Chi; Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health; Mr Tan Kwang Cheak, Mr Peter Lam, Ms Jeanne Liew, and Mr Lim Kok Kiang) (Photo Credit: Agency for Integrated Care)*

## **Benefits of student volunteerism**

6. As part of the MOU, AIC will make volunteering opportunities in Community Care settings available to students across different specialisations and year of study. These opportunities include volunteering at Active Ageing Centres (AACs) and participating in the Silver Generation Ambassador (SGA) programme, which involves volunteers who engage seniors in their homes on behalf of the Silver Generation Office (SGO), the outreach arm of AIC. Students who join these programmes will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills required to engage with seniors in the community.

7. As part of the volunteering programmes at AACs, students will befriend seniors and learn how to support those who are at risk of social isolation via student-led activities designed to engage seniors. Through these experiences, intergenerational bonding can be fostered, allowing the students and seniors to better understand and appreciate each other's role in the community. Feedback from the student volunteers will be collected and used in the refinement of programmes for future participants, with the goal of developing a formalised programme that benefits both students and seniors in the long run.

8. For students who join the SGA programme, they will be part of teams that conduct home visits to seniors living in the community. During these home visits, SGAs share relevant government schemes and policies, as well as activities and services available, to seniors. These engagements will not only offer students a better understanding of the aspirations and needs of the seniors in the community, but also provide them the option of immersing themselves deeper into the volunteer network for deeper sector training via internships. Students could also choose to tap on the SGA programme in real-time, to support their coursework requirements.

9. Mr Sng Hock Lin, Chief of SGO, said, “Today marks a milestone in our quest to boost volunteerism among Singaporeans. We are grateful that the five polytechnics share our vision and have joined us in our journey towards developing a sustainable system that can support our population’s ageing trajectory. We welcome more like-minded organisations to work with us in supporting our seniors to live well and age gracefully.”

10. Please refer to the Annex for more details from the polytechnics.

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**About the Agency for Integrated Care**

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) aims to create a vibrant care community for people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and supports efforts in integrating care to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We reach out to caregivers and seniors with information on staying active and ageing well, and connect people to services they need. We support stakeholders in their efforts to raise the quality of care, and also work with health and social care partners to provide services for the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more about us, please visit <https://www.aic.sg>

## **Annex**

### Spokespersons' quotes

#### **Nanyang Polytechnic**

"The collaboration with the Agency for Integrated Care allows our learners to experience a different form of learning beyond the classroom, in a real-world environment in the healthcare and community care sectors. This partnership further amplifies the abundance of opportunities our learners have during their course of study at NYP, ensuring our graduates are not only well-versed in their fields but are also empathetic professionals ready to contribute positively post-graduation," said Mr Russell Chan, Principal & Chief Executive Officer, Nanyang Polytechnic

#### **Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

Principal & CEO of NP, Mr Lim Kok Kiang said, "Against the backdrop of a rapidly ageing population, NP has been ramping up our curricula and training programmes to serve the needs of the eldercare sector. This collaboration with AIC provides an excellent platform for our learners to sharpen their learning, upskill and build deeper engagement through opportunities on the ground. We look forward to equipping our students and care professionals and contributing to a sustainable system of community care for Singapore."

#### **Republic Polytechnic**

"As we navigate the changing demographic landscape and an ageing population, volunteerism has emerged as an urgent collective responsibility. Our collaboration with AIC represents a concerted effort to empower our students to contribute meaningfully towards the community. Through these engagements, students from the School of Sports, Health and Leisure will also pick up skills to support the advancement of social services and appreciate the diversity within the community, while enabling seniors to age meaningfully and gracefully," said Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal & CEO, Republic Polytechnic.

#### **Singapore Polytechnic**

"Empowering students through collaboration with AIC, our MOU seamlessly integrates the Silver Generation Ambassador Programme into our SDWCC (Specialist Diploma in Workplace and Career Counselling). This innovative approach offers a unique blend of classroom learning and experiential community service. Our partnership ensures a continuous cycle of learning and community service and enriches our students' skills, fostering a sustained impact through apprenticeship. The incorporation of an internal Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) system further incentivises students to actively participate in the SGA programme, earning valuable points while making meaningful contributions to society," said Mr Loh Yew Chiong, Deputy Principal (Academic), Singapore Polytechnic.

#### **Temasek Polytechnic**

"This MOU signing marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between AIC and the polytechnics. Since September this year, all first-year students in TP's Diploma in Social Sciences in Gerontology have completed the Silver Generation Ambassador training. They will make regular house visits to seniors to assess and strengthen their well-being in the community. This partnership provides continuous opportunities for

students to apply classroom learning in the real world, to deepen their specialised skills in gerontology and develop empathy through intergenerational interactions.

Additionally, this collaboration also inculcates a spirit of care for the community and facilitates inter-generational bonding among youths and the elderly,” said Mr Peter Lam, Principal & CEO, Temasek Polytechnic.

## Information on polytechnics

### **About Nanyang Polytechnic**

Established as an institution of higher learning in 1992, Nanyang Polytechnic's (NYP) academic schools offer quality education and training through 40 full-time diploma courses and common entry programmes. NYP also has a full suite of Continuing Education and Training (CET) options for lifelong learning, ranging from specialist and advanced diplomas to SkillsFuture-supported modules and courses.

NYP's Asian Culinary Institute Singapore and the Singapore Institute of Retail Studies are CET institutes set up in partnership with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG) to champion and transform Singapore's F&B and retail sectors, respectively. A third NYP CET institute – the National Centre of Excellence for Workplace Learning – also set up in collaboration with SSG, will spearhead the development of progressive workplace learning strategies and programmes for companies here.

For more information, visit <http://www.nyp.edu.sg>

### **About Ngee Ann Polytechnic**

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with over 13,000 enrolled students in about 40 courses across diverse disciplines. It seeks to develop students with a passion for learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace. The polytechnic also supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy, which offers a wide range of part-time programmes and short courses. It works closely with industry partners to curate programmes for emerging skills, develop talent pipeline for the industries and help adult learners stay agile in today's rapidly changing global economy. [www.np.edu.sg](http://www.np.edu.sg)

### **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 and 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>.

## **About Singapore Polytechnic**

Established in 1954, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is Singapore's first polytechnic. It has 10 schools that offer 30 full-time diploma courses and three common entry programmes for more than 12,800 students. SP adopts a proven creative teaching and learning framework and offers students a holistic, authentic and industry-relevant curriculum, innovative and vibrant learning spaces, and enriching overseas programmes.

The Polytechnic is committed to producing competent and versatile graduates who are also imbued with sound values so that they can be work-ready, life-ready and world-ready. Currently, SP has more than 223,000 graduates and among them are successful entrepreneurs, top executives in multi-national and public-listed corporations, and well-known professionals across various industries and leaders in government.

SP clinched the inaugural ASEAN People's Award in 2015 for its contributions toward the region's community-building efforts. SP is also the first polytechnic to be awarded the President's Award for the Environment in 2010 and the President's Social Service Award in 2011, as well as the President's Award for Teachers in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

For more information on Singapore Polytechnic, please visit [www.sp.edu.sg](http://www.sp.edu.sg). Follow SP on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/singaporepolytechnic/> and Instagram at @singaporepoly.

## **About Temasek Polytechnic**

Established in 1990, TP is one of the leading institutions of higher learning in Singapore. Currently it offers 36 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 40 part-time courses, up to 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. Believing in the possibilities of tomorrow, Temasek Polytechnic is committed to co-creating a better world with its stakeholders by nurturing the next generation of values-centred leaders, lifelong learners and future-oriented creators.

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