



NEWS RELEASE

Vietnam looks to Singapore in multi-million dollar technical education sector transformation

Temasek Foundation to support Singapore Polytechnic in first such collaboration to build capability and capacity

Singapore, 22 August 2008: Vietnam is set to roll out a multi-million dollar transformation of its vocational and technical education system that will initially involve four colleges, 16,000 tertiary students and 500 teaching staff in Ho Chi Minh City over the next three years (2008-2011).

Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is taking the lead in the initiative, which is part of Vietnam's master plan to train skilled workers for its fast growing economy.

From next month, staff from SP will provide educational and training insights in the study of Mechatronic and Information Technology. SP will train 60 educators - mainly senior management, heads of departments and lecturers - from the four colleges at the polytechnic's Singapore campus. SP will also advise on the enhancement of pedagogy, development of course curriculum and setting up an academic quality management system to ensure continual improvement.

"One of the world's fastest growing economies, Vietnam is preparing a ready pool of skilled workers for new industries. And SP being Singapore's first polytechnic, is privileged to be able to share our experience in technical education. We look forward to growing this partnership," said SP Principal, Mr Tan Hang Cheong.

Overseeing the improvement of Vietnam's technical education and training is the Department of Education and Training (DOET).

The estimated S\$6.5 million project is jointly supported by Temasek Foundation. The foundation has set aside S\$1.6 million to support the capability development component of the programme.

The project will be commemorated at an agreement signing ceremony today at Phu Lam Technical and Professional High School in Ho Chi Minh City by Ms Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Vice-Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, Mr Jimmy Chua, Singapore Consul-General to Ho Chi Minh City,

Mr Huynh Cong Minh, DOET Director, Mr Benedict Cheong, Temasek Foundation CEO and Mr Tan Hang Cheong, SP Principal, will be present.

“VM MOET or DOET Director’s quote on how this collaboration can benefit the country in terms of depth and breadth in education.”

“Establishing the four colleges as model institutions is the first step to help other technical colleges in Vietnam raise their standards for technical vocational education and training. This is a model of long-term institutional improvement that Temasek Foundation is pleased to support,” said Mr Benedict Cheong, CEO, Temasek Foundation.

The initiative is expected to lead to the eventual setting up of a centre of excellence that will facilitate the development of strategies, pedagogy and curriculum for vocational education and training across Vietnam. It is envisaged that the centre will be a place where technical educators can develop long term strategies for administration and leadership, and where they can develop pedagogy and curriculum that can be replicated country-wide.

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About Singapore Polytechnic (www.sp.edu.sg)

Established in 1954 to meet the manpower needs identified by the government, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is Singapore’s first educational institution of its kind. Its nine academic schools offer 44 full-time diploma courses for its 14,900 students and courses are kept relevant through close links with industry and government bodies, as well as with various overseas institutions.

SP offers broad-based, multi-disciplinary and flexible curriculum dedicated to hands-on experience and is committed to the development of its applied research and development capability to enhance the quality of teaching and commercialisation efforts. Beyond the classroom, close to 90 student clubs covering areas like arts, culture, sports and community service make student life vibrant and fulfilling. The presence of foreign students from countries such as China, India and Indonesia also provides a variety of cultures and perspectives, nurturing a global mindset in Singapore Polytechnic students.

Among SP's 145,000 graduates are successful entrepreneurs, top executives in multinational and public-listed corporations, and well-known professionals, many of whom are captains of industries, university professors and researchers, and leaders in government.

About Temasek Foundation (www.temasekfoundation.org.sg)

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 develop people through health care, education and research, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through good governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.