

**ADDRESS BY MR SOH WAI WAH  
PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC  
ON 19 October 2017, 6:30 PM  
AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN SP & SINGAPORE RED CROSS SOCIETY**

Mr Benjamin William, Secretary General / Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Red Cross

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good evening. It is our pleasure to welcome everyone here today to witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, between Singapore Polytechnic and Singapore Red Cross. This collaboration to develop and launch a Diploma-Plus Certificate Programme in Humanitarian Affairs marks a significant milestone in Singapore Polytechnic's history.
2. Singapore has always readily offered assistance in the provision of aid and relief to disaster-affected developing countries. This MoU with Singapore Red Cross reaffirms Singapore Polytechnic's advocacy for community service and aim to develop our students into global citizens who are sensitive and responsive to the needs of disaster victims. With this Diploma-Plus Certificate Programme, students will be more aware of the issues facing humanitarian workers in Asia too.
3. While Singapore's geographical location has shielded us from natural disasters, resilience and disaster-preparedness are foremost concerns in our current global climate. This MoU complements Singapore Polytechnic's overseas community service trips, which see students making a difference to a local community, either by helping them construct and build compounds or teaching them English.

Through these experiences, students develop a sense of purpose as they learn about the needs of disaster-stricken communities and the importance of humanitarian aid.

4. It is heartening to see civic mindedness and social responsibility amongst our students. Over the last four years, the number of students signing up for overseas community service trips has increased by almost 60%. In 2017, more than 850 of our students have ventured beyond our shores to assist the less fortunate.
5. With this MOU, there will be more local and overseas community service trips and further co-operation on the curriculum; including the provision of a Continuing Education Training (CET) course in the future.
6. I am confident that this MOU will mark the beginning of a rewarding and fruitful partnership between Singapore Red Cross and Singapore Polytechnic. Let's work together towards a blueprint indicative of Singapore's imminent standing as a serious humanitarian player and responder in South-East Asia. Thank you.