

Republic Polytechnic-Red Cross MOU Signing Ceremony
Speech by Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal and CEO of Republic Polytechnic

1 July 2017, 0920 hrs, at LT-E5, Republic Polytechnic

Mr Amrin Amin, Mr Benjamin William, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and a warm welcome to Republic Polytechnic.

We are pleased to be the venue host for the Singapore Humanitarian Youth Summit, and I hope you will take the opportunity to explore our campus and the facilities during your time here.

Two years ago Republic Polytechnic worked with the Singapore Red Cross to send 9 students and 2 lecturers from the Diploma in Mass Communication to East Japan. They were there to document how Singapore donations had funded the rebuilding programmes, and how the Japanese possessed indomitable spirit and strength in overcoming adversities, following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011.

These students managed the entire project, from creating a narrative and producing a six-part documentary video to a photobook and photos to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The project culminated in a roving exhibition at major shopping malls and RP in 2016. Additional students from the diploma supported Singapore Red Cross at the exhibition and execution of a digital media campaign to publicise the exhibitions.

Students involved in this project have shared with me the invaluable lessons they have learnt from this experience. They not only are humbled by the resilience of the Japanese people, but they have also picked up industry-relevant skills in mass communication.

Today, learning has gone beyond the classroom for our students in Republic Polytechnic. We recognise the importance of working with industry partners such as Singapore Red Cross to provide an authentic learning experience for our students, so that they are equipped with relevant skills to meet the demands of a skilled workforce.

Partnering with industry leaders, we have designed curriculum and projects for students to build knowledge and capabilities across industries, incorporated internships and mentorships so that students can experience first-hand and adapt to a real work environment. We have also built incubation and ideation labs, such as the School of Management and Communication's new Media Lab which we will launch today, for students to produce quality and industry-standard projects.

At the same time, we are committed to inculcate values such as compassion and resilience in our students through such overseas service learning trips. By getting students involved in these social and humanitarian activities, we hope that our students are inspired to make a positive contribution to society and the community.

Through the MOU that we will be signing today with Singapore Red Cross, our students will have the opportunity to experience authentic learning through our multi-faceted collaborations spanning

- overseas humanitarian projects,
- curriculum development,
- social enterprise management,
- internships, and
- humanitarian outreach and blood donation programmes.

I hope that through this partnership, the Singapore Red Cross will be better able to reach out to youths, and we will jointly build capabilities for our youths to be active contributors to the society at large.

We look forward to a fruitful and close partnership with the Singapore Red Cross.

Thank you and have a meaningful and enjoyable summit.