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MEDIA RELEASE

SKILLSFUTURE FOR DIGITAL WORKPLACE PROGRAMME FOR TAXI DRIVERS

1 Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) launched the Skillsfuture for Digital Workplace (SFDW) programme on 5 Oct 2017. As part of the approach to customise solutions for different segments of the workforce, the National Taxi Association (NTA) has worked with the NTUC LearningHub (LHUB) and Republic Polytechnic (RP) to customise the SFDW course to equip taxi drivers with practical and relevant skills to help them in their day to day work. LHUB is one of the appointed training providers by Skillsfuture Singapore (SSG) to deliver courses under the SFDW programme.

2 The taxi industry is undergoing rapid change due to technological advances such as taxi matching. There are currently 25, 000 active taxi drivers in Singapore, of whom 50% are aged 55 and above. These taxi drivers will need to embrace technological advances and leverage them to improve their productivity and expand their business opportunities. The three partners, NTA, LHUB and RP, believe that the SFDW would help the taxi drivers to do so.

3 The pilot SFDW for taxi drivers involved 60 taxi drivers while another 1,000 more are expected to be trained in 2018. NTA will work with tripartite partners such as the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and all taxi operators to train taxi drivers to be digitally ready for the future.



4 NTA Executive Adviser Mr Ang Hin Kee commented, "We are encouraged that the feedback on the SFDW from taxi drivers has been positive. Taxi operators have also expressed their keenness in assisting their taxi partners to attend this training."

Curriculum for SFDW for taxi drivers

5 As part of the curriculum, taxi drivers will undergo 10 hours of classroom sessions and two hours of off-site learning. They will learn about digital applications and platforms such as [Parking.sg](#), internet banking, ePayment methods like PayNow and other relevant business applications. In addition to theory lessons, the drivers will be given time to test out these apps in the classroom. Students from RP's School of Infocomm will be on-site during the course as Cyber Ambassadors to assist taxi drivers who require more guidance in navigating and using the digital platforms.

6 Drivers will also get to test out the Driver Guidance System app – a collaboration by the Singapore Management University, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Fujitsu and the LTA - that directs taxi drivers to areas with likelihood of more passengers.

7 The use of these apps will help taxi drivers in their daily work and provide greater convenience for them and passengers. "The [parking.sg](#) app is very easy to use and now I don't have to worry about fines when I run out of parking coupons," said taxi driver Simon Lee, 63.

8 Minister Ong, who observed the training programme this afternoon, said, "This is a good initiative and I am very heartened to hear the positive feedback from taxi drivers about the course content. The SFDW for cabbies is a good example of how the initiative can be tailored to meet the needs of any worker in any industry, including freelancers and the self-employed."



9 LHUB Chief Executive Officer Mr Kwek Kok Kwong added, “LHUB is ready to do more with companies, government agencies and with the support from our Labour Movement to develop such flexible and customised solutions as part of the SMART Nation initiative to equip Singaporeans with the necessary digital skillsets and knowledge. We have seen good take up rates for SFDW in 2017 and we aim to train up to 10,000 more in 2018.”

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About National Taxi Association

Formed on 26 June 2010, the National Taxi Association (NTA) is an association for all Taxi Drivers in Singapore. We currently have some 20,000 members. NTA’s objectives are to be the unified voice for Taxi Drivers in furthering their interests and to enhance the social and economic well-being of Taxi Drivers. For more information, please visit www.nta.org.sg

About NTUC LearningHub

- Started in 1982 as NTUC Computer Training Centre; with 35 years of continued growth, quality and innovation.
- Corporatised in 2004 to enhance the life-long employability of workers.
- Vision: Transforming the life-long employability of working people.
- Mission: To be the leader in Continuing Education and Training by providing learning that transforms employability and creates a better life for working



people of all collars, ages and nationalities.

- Work with both corporate and individual clients and provide training in areas such as Infocomm Technology, Soft Skills & Literacy, Workplace Safety & Health, Security, HR, Leadership and Service Excellence, staying relevant to industry and provide engaging, meaningful training for learners.
- Helped to upskill all workers with over 2 million training places so far, 16,700 organisations with over 600 training courses and 1,300 certified trainers.
- As a Total Learning Solutions provider to organisations and individuals, we forge partnerships through providing a wide range of relevant training solutions and working constantly to improve our training quality and solutions.
- Maintain relevancy by linking up with learning communities, keeping track of new trends in learning like mobile and e-learning as well as improve our training methods with innovation and technology.

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 one academic centre offering forty-one diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and lifelong learning opportunities. Its holistic and broad-based curriculum prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society as problem solvers, respected professionals and passionate citizens.

Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 22301, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class. For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg/>.