

Steady talent pipeline of industry-ready graduates from Republic Polytechnic to drive Singapore's Tourism 2040 vision

- *Over 1,000 graduates from the School of Technology for Arts, Media and Design and School of Hospitality to support Singapore's tourism, hospitality and service sectors*

Singapore, 4 May 2026 – Republic Polytechnic (RP) marked the start of its 21st Graduation Ceremony today, celebrating the achievements of 4,800 Pre-Employment Training (PET) and Continuing Education and Training (CET) graduates receiving their diplomas across 78 diploma programmes this week. Among them, more than 1,000 graduates with diverse specialisations across the School of Technology for Arts, Media and Design (STA) and School of Hospitality (SOH) will support Singapore's Tourism 2040 vision by strengthening the pipeline of skilled manpower.

Guest-of-Honour **Dr Syed Harun Alhabsyi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of National Development** will be addressing the STA graduates from the Class of 2026 at the opening session.

Singapore's transformation into a premier global entertainment hub has brought about growing demand for specialised technical professionals in event production, audio-visual technology, and stagecraft to support large-scale live events. The Singapore Tourism Board's (STB) 2040 roadmap projects¹ tourism receipts to go up to \$50 billion by 2040, anchored by a strategic shift from volume-driven growth to value creation through compelling tourism experiences, alongside a targeted threefold growth in MICE tourism receipts. RP graduates from both STA and SOH are well-equipped to meet this heightened demand for skilled talent and strengthen Singapore's global competitiveness.

An STA alumna who exemplifies this is 34-year-old Serene Tan, who is currently with AEG Presents Asia. As a production and operations manager in the sports and live entertainment company, she brings a versatile approach to project leadership in the local and international entertainment scenes. Additionally, among the STA graduates is 44-year-old Sahabudin Jamaludin who stands out as a strong advocate and champion for lifelong learning. An STA CET graduate, he concurrently completed a Part-Time Diploma in Design and Media (Digital Entertainment and Events) and a Part-Time Diploma in Business Practice (Hospitality Management). With these two diplomas, Sahabudin aims to raise the bar for events management in his role at One Tampines Hub.

Ms Jeanne Liew, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Republic Polytechnic, said, "As the hospitality and tourism sectors shift towards more experience-led offerings, there is a growing need for talent who can combine technology, creativity and service excellence. At RP, we have proactively evolved our programmes to meet these needs, integrating industry partnerships and applied learning into our curriculum. Our graduates are well-positioned to support emerging roles and help shape a vibrant, innovative and experience-driven tourism sector in Singapore."

[1] *Speech by Ms Melissa Ow, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, at the Tourism Industry Conference 2025.* (n.d.). Singapore Tourism Board. <https://www.stb.gov.sg/about-stb/media-publications/speeches/speech-by-ms-melissa-ow--chief-executive--singapore-tourism-board--at-the-tourism-industry-conference-2025/>

[2] Republic Polytechnic. (2024). Republic Polytechnic Teams Up with 16 Industry Giants to Nurture Future-Ready Graduates through Groundbreaking Talent Advancement Programme. In *Media Release* [Press-release]. https://www.rp.edu.sg/docs/default-source/about-us-doc/media-releases/2024/republic-polytechnic-teams-up-with-16-industry-giants-to-nurture-future-ready-graduates-through-groundbreaking-talent-advancement-programme.pdf?sfvrsn=a339e8cf_6

Pioneer cohorts driving future-ready tourism, hospitality and service talent

Complementing the sector's capability development efforts are RP's Talent Advancement Programme (TAP) and the Diploma in Tourism Management with Technology (DTMT) offered by the School of Hospitality (SOH).

Introduced in 2024, TAP is a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to accelerate career pathways for full-time hospitality students within the tourism and hospitality sectors². Close to 120 students from the inaugural cohort are set to graduate this year, with about half receiving employment offers from their respective host organisations ahead of graduation.

Growing in strength with 16 leading industry partners backing the initiative at the start to over 20 to-date, TAP features a one-year structured internship for final year students, underpinned by a training blueprint co-developed by RP and industry collaborators. Students rotate across key functions to develop a diverse set of competencies and gain a holistic understanding of business operations. Upon completion, they may be offered bond-free, full-time employment at higher-level entry roles, with up to 10% additional remuneration.

This year's hospitality cohort also includes the inaugural batch of 49 graduates from the Diploma in Tourism Management with Technology (DTMT). Introduced to address shifts in the tourism landscape shaped by digitalisation, experience design and sustainability, the programme equips graduates to thrive in a technology-enabled tourism landscape. They are trained to manage Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled smart facilities, use mixed reality technologies to curate customised guest experiences, interpret travel pattern data for revenue optimisation and explore ways to reduce carbon footprint of tourist attractions.

With future developments such as the Changi Airport Terminal 5 and the expansion of Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa, these graduates will play a pivotal role in shaping the next phase of tourism growth - driving innovation, enhancing visitor experiences and supporting a more sustainable, high-value tourism sector.

Ms Juliette Lim, Vice President of Talent, Marina Bay Sands, added, "We are proud of the RP students who have completed their work placements with us. They have demonstrated strong aptitude and the right qualities to succeed in a luxury hospitality environment. By aligning education closely with industry needs, the Talent Advancement Programme strengthens broader talent strategy while supporting the continued transformation of Singapore's tourism and hospitality sector."

Special Award Winners

Reflecting RP's "Becoming Greater Me" framework, which aligns students' passions and goals with both academic and life pathways, special awards were also conferred at the opening graduation session to seven PET graduates for their outstanding achievements in both academics and non-academic areas.

The special awards recognise excellence in various domains and comprise the following four awards: Board of Governors Award for the Most Outstanding Graduate of the Year, Ngee Ann Kongsi Award for the Most Distinguished Graduate of the Year, Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science and Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal.

For the first time, three graduates from CET programmes were also awarded the inaugural Republic Polytechnic - SkillsFuture Lifelong Learning Award in recognition of their dedication

and commitment to lifelong learning, as well as their contribution towards skills development in their work, social and learning communities.

Further details are provided below:

- Annex A: List of diploma programmes from School of Hospitality and School of Technology for Arts, Media and Design
- Annex B: List of industry partners for Talent Advancement Programme (TAP)
- Annex C: Profile stories of Special Award Winners
- Annex D: Profile stories of Republic Polytechnic - SkillsFuture Lifelong Learning Award Winners
- Annex E: Additional profile stories from Class of 2026 graduates detailing their achievements, contributions, and their journey in RP

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About Republic Polytechnic

Established in 2002, Republic Polytechnic (RP) is Singapore's youngest polytechnic. RP offers over 40 full-time courses across diverse fields, including Applied Science, Business, Engineering, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports and Health, and Technology for Arts, Media and Design. Through its "Becoming Greater Me" framework, RP endeavours to spark joy in learning by helping students discover their purpose and aligning their goals and passions with both academic and life pursuits.

RP adopts effective learner-centred pedagogies to equip students with a wide range of skills needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world. The polytechnic envisions its graduates as Articulate Self-Starters, Passionate Community Builders, and Purposeful Game-Changers. Additionally, RP's Academy for Continuing Education offers a comprehensive suite of lifelong learning programmes, providing graduates and adult learners with upskilling opportunities.

For more information, visit www.rp.edu.sg and follow RP on [LinkedIn](#).

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