



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Singapore and Myanmar launch S\$1 million training programme to enhance skills qualification framework**

*Naypyidaw, Myanmar, 10 March 2015* - Temasek Foundation, Singapore (TF) and Singapore Polytechnic (SP) today announced the launch of a training programme, in partnership with the National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to link and align Myanmar's national vocational qualifications to ASEAN standards. The two-year initiative, which will train about 100 technical specialists, will cost about \$1 million and is jointly funded by TF and NSSA.

In 2012, TF, SP and NSSA collaborated on its first joint training programme which focused on establishing academic systems for technical and vocational institutions, and a systematic five-phase approach for curriculum design and development. The new programme is expected to support the NSSA in its efforts to reference Myanmar's national vocational qualifications to the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf), a regional framework to correlate the individual qualification systems across ASEAN countries. This will be significant in facilitating the mobility of labour and learners within the ASEAN region.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today in Naypyidaw, Myanmar, between Mr U Win Shein, Director General, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Mr Lee Leck Seng, General Manager of Singapore Polytechnic International. The signing was witnessed by H.E. U Aye Myint, the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. U Htin Aung, the Deputy Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Mr Robert Chua, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Myanmar; Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation and Ms Chong Phit Lian, member of Singapore Polytechnic's Board of Governor.

“We would like to thank Temasek Foundation for the strong support they have given us since our first collaboration in 2012 and for the continued support for this new technical cooperation. We are confident that this collaboration will further strengthen the relations between Myanmar and Singapore, and deepen our collective efforts to work towards realising the ASEAN Economic Community,” said U Myo Aung, Director General, Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

“Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is an important component of education and life-long learning across Asia. By establishing good frameworks, technical and vocational institutions will be able to offer their graduates better opportunities for employment and learning. Temasek Foundation is pleased to support the National Skill Standard Authority in their continuing efforts to enhance the vocational education and training system in Myanmar,” said Mr Benedict Cheong, Chief Executive Officer, Temasek Foundation, Singapore.

Ms Chong Phit Lian, a member of SP’s Board of Governors said, “This new capability development programme in Myanmar marks the first time that Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Foundation are collaborating on the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). Through this programme, we aim to equip the NSSA and relevant Myanmar agencies with an in-depth understanding of the AQRF and the capability to interpret and relate the AQRF to the qualifications systems of NSSA.”

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Note: Please refer to attached fact sheet for details of the programme.

**About Singapore Polytechnic ([www.sp.edu.sg](http://www.sp.edu.sg))**

Established in 1954 to meet the manpower needs identified by the government, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is Singapore’s first polytechnic. Its 10 academic schools offer 50 full-time diploma courses for its 15,970 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. It is committed to the development of its applied research and development

capabilities to enhance the quality of teaching and commercialisation efforts. Through Design Thinking, SP offers a revolutionary approach to education, allowing its students to look at problems from different perspectives, and strike a dynamic balance between intuitive and analytical thinking to provide impactful solutions.

Among SP's 166,800 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.

SP is the first polytechnic to be awarded the President's Award for the Environment in 2010 and the President's Social Service Award in 2011.

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### **About Temasek Foundation ([www.temasekfoundation.org.sg](http://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 build people through health care and education, programmes that build bridges between peoples, programmes that build institutions of excellence through governance and ethics, and programmes that rebuild lives and livelihoods affected by natural disasters.

### **About National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

NSSA is currently chaired by the Deputy Union Minister, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security with the Director-General for Department of Labour as Secretary, and members comprising Director-Generals and senior management of various government ministries, professional bodies and private sector partners

NSSA is responsible for the four skill levels of the vocational qualifications framework, namely: Level 1: Semi-skilled, Level 2: Skilled, Level 3: Advanced- skilled and Level 4: Supervisory. Its responsibilities include setting national occupational competency standards, training, national skill assessment and certification of occupational skills for these 4 levels in Myanmar. To achieve this, NSSA works closely with various government Ministries, lead industry bodies and private sector organisations in Myanmar.

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