

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

MORE INTAKE PLACES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COURSES IN THE POLYTECHNICS

**ENHANCED CURRICULUM AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO BETTER PREPARE STUDENTS FOR
A CAREER IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SECTOR**

Singapore, 13 January 2016 – To meet the rapid expansion of the early childhood education sector and increased demand for trained preschool teachers in Singapore, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP) will be increasing the intake places for their full-time early childhood education diploma courses, from a combined total of 380 to 675 places, in the new Academic Year starting April 2016. This represents a 77 per cent increase in total intake places.

NP currently offers the Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Diploma in Child Psychology & Early Education, and TP offers the Diploma in Early Childhood Studies. In 2016, NP will offer 220 places for the Diploma in Early Childhood Education, 260 places for the Diploma in Child Psychology & Early Education, and 20 places for the Chinese Early Childhood Teaching Track under the Diploma in Chinese Studies. TP will offer 175 places for Diploma in Early Childhood Studies.

Students accepted into the early childhood education courses can apply for an Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) training award of up to \$40,000. The award includes full course sponsorship of fees payable and a monthly study allowance of \$800. The training award supports passionate individuals who are committed to a career in the early childhood sector.

Fresh O-Level graduates can apply for these diploma courses via the Joint Admissions Exercise (JAE), which is open from now through Friday, 15 January 2016. Individuals who are keen to pursue a career in the early childhood sector, and who have the relevant aptitude and strengths, are strongly encouraged to concurrently apply for the courses via the Joint Polytechnic Special Admissions (JPSAE) exercise. Interested students may call or visit NP (www.np.edu.sg) and TP (www.tp.edu.sg) to find out more.

Enhanced Curriculum and Learning Experiences in the Early Childhood Education Diploma Programmes at NP and TP

NP Offers New Early Childhood Education Specialisation Tracks and a Global Education Trip Programme

From April 2016, NP will introduce two specialisation tracks under the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECH) and a two-week overseas Global Education Trip (GeT) programme to enhance the training of pre-service teachers in the early childhood sector.

NP's ECH students enrolling in April 2016 can choose to specialise in either the **Early Literacy track or the Early Childhood Teaching track** in their final year, depending on their interest. Students in the Early Literacy track will deepen their expertise in the teaching of literacy skills to young children, for example, by learning how to create educational resources and design literacy programmes. Those in the Early Childhood Teaching Track will have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in innovative pedagogies, such as music, dance and play.

NP is also introducing a **Global Education Trip (GeT)** programme to its second- and third-year students taking the Diploma in Early Childhood Education (ECH), Diploma in Child Psychology & Early Education (CPEE), and Diploma in Chinese Studies (Chinese Early Childhood Teaching Track) at NP. During this two-week overseas programme, students will get a first-hand look at early childhood education centres and practices around the world to enhance classroom learning and to distill best practices that can be applied to the Singapore context.

“Together with enhanced internships that provide longer duration and more structured mentorship, these curriculum changes aim to deepen students’ skills and knowledge, so that they are better prepared for their career as preschool educators. After a few years of teaching experience, they may then be nominated by their preschools for Continuing Education Programmes such as the Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood Leadership, so that they can progress to become leaders of their preschools,” said Dr Lucy Quek, Deputy Director for NP’s School of Humanities & Social Sciences.

TP Enhances Applied Learning Opportunities with Expanded Laboratory Preschool

Starting from 4th January this year, the Diploma in Early Childhood Studies (ECS) Students at Temasek Polytechnic (TP) can also look forward to having their diploma learning experience enhanced with TP’s *newly-enhanced laboratory preschool* called **PLAY¹ (PRESCHOOL LEARNING ACADEMY)**.

¹ **PLAY** (laboratory preschool) is a division within the Centre for Child Study (CCS), which is part of TP’s School of Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS). The purpose of a laboratory preschool is to provide an observation and practicum site for students training to be early childhood educators.

PLAY was set up in January 2011 to provide TP's ECS diploma students with opportunities for demonstration, observation, modelling, and hands-on practice.

In view of the larger student intake for TP's ECS diploma programme, the premises of PLAY have been recently expanded, with the capabilities to offer both kindergarten and childcare services. With these enhancements, ECS students will benefit from an increased number of laboratory school contact hours incorporated into their curriculum, from about 10 to 60 hours in their first two years of study. They will have more opportunities to observe and teach at PLAY, which will enable them to connect theory to practice, and provide them with structured practical experience before they embark on a six-month long Enhanced Internship in the final year of their studies.

"The enhanced authentic learning experiences at **PLAY**, and the *Enhanced Internship*, which all our ECS students will have to go through in their final year of study, will better prepare our students for their future workplaces," said Mr Ang Teck Hua, Director for TP's Centre for Child Study.

+++++

For media queries, please contact:

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ms Sangeetha Naidu
Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Media Relations Manager
DID: +65 6460 6232
Email: sangeetha@np.edu.sg

Temasek Polytechnic

Ms Vimala Christie
Temasek Polytechnic
Senior Corporate Communications Officer
DID: +65 6780 5019
Email: vimalac@tp.edu.sg

About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Inaugurated in 1963 as Ngee Ann College with only 116 students, Ngee Ann Polytechnic is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with more than 16,000 full-time students, about 2,000 part-time students and an alumni community of over 130,000.

The polytechnic offers 49 full-time courses through its nine academic schools - School of Business & Accountancy, School of Design & Environment, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology. Ngee Ann supports Continuing Education and Training (CET) through its CET Academy, which offers a wide range of part-time programmes. The Polytechnic has also established two Centres of Innovation - in Environmental & Water Technology and Marine & Offshore Technology - to work on collaborative research and technology projects.

Learning takes place amid a caring and conducive environment with top-notch facilities ranging from broadcast, multimedia and animation studios to research laboratories as well as simulation and technology centres. With our emphasis on broad-based learning, global exposure and character development, Ngee Ann Polytechnic's vision is to prepare graduates with a passion for learning, values for life and competencies to thrive in a global workplace.

For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg.

About Temasek Polytechnic

Temasek Polytechnic (TP) is a significant contributor to the field of para-professional education in Singapore. TP currently offers 51 full-time diploma courses in the areas of applied science, business, design, engineering, humanities & social sciences and informatics & IT. It also offers over 20 part-time courses, up to the advanced diploma level. TP students undergo a holistic learning system that combines hands-on experience, character education and relevant life skills, in an enriching learning environment.

The Polytechnic has also infused global realities into its programmes and developed a mindset on campus that embraces socio-cultural diversity. These approaches ensure that TP graduates are economy relevant, future relevant and life relevant. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg