

MEDIA RELEASE

NGEE ANN POLY INFUSES SERVICE-LEARNING AS SIGNATURE PEDAGOGY INTO CORE CURRICULUM ACROSS ALL 49 COURSES

**All students will use their course skills and knowledge to work on projects
that are grounded in purpose-driven learning and service to community**

New Initiative garners support of more than 40 community partners in pilot phase

Singapore, 1 March 2016 – When Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Business & Social Enterprise student Liew Yan Zhang went on a Youth Expedition Project trip to Phnom Penh, he was moved by villagers from SMILE Village who sold discarded cardboard and other materials to make a living. After returning, he roped in classmate Chong Yao Xiang to start a recycling project as a social enterprise for the villagers. They intend to explore other uses of the recycled material so that there is greater value in the products that are recycled.

Their actions capture the crux of service-learning – to encourage purposeful learning and active citizenry through leveraging on students’ discipline skills and knowledge to meet identified community needs.

To inculcate this essence of service-learning in all students and fundamentally transform the way they experience it, NP is embarking on a new initiative to strategically integrate service-learning into the core curriculum. Every NP student from the April 2016 cohort onwards will be exposed to at least one module that highlights service-learning as a key pedagogy. Previously, community involvement activities were largely ad-hoc and dependent on student interest. While such activities will continue to be encouraged as part of the students’ holistic development, NP aims to take service-learning to a new level by making it course-specific and purpose-driven. NP is the first polytechnic in Singapore to introduce service-learning as a pedagogy to all students.

“The new service-learning pedagogy fulfills a two-pronged objective. Firstly, it aligns with our graduate outcomes, which are to develop students to be passionate learners, to have a big heart for the community, and to be ready for a global workplace. Specifically, service-learning presents an ideal platform for our students to identify, empathise with and develop deeper understanding of the needs of the community. Secondly, we want to encourage purpose-driven learning which will make them more engaged in their learning, that is, we hope to address the ‘why’ behind what they are studying.

When they know why, they will be more passionate in their pursuits,” said Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of NP.

Service-learning as NP’s signature pedagogy

As part of the initiative, every diploma will offer at least one module using the service-learning pedagogy, either by embedding it into an existing module or presenting it in a new module.

For example, under the *Engineering Design Thinking* module, students come up with creative engineering solutions that aim to solve an existing problem in the community, such as deploying aerial surveillance to monitor beach cleanliness. Another example of a service-learning module is the *Managing Disabilities* module of the Diploma in Psychology course where students interact with certain disabled communities and design activities that specially cater to their needs.

Besides gaining a broader appreciation for their discipline, the initiative hopes to instill in students the importance of empathy, values and civic responsibility, and train them to serve beyond themselves. The service-learning experience can take place either locally or overseas.

“It’s deeply rewarding to apply what I’ve learnt in my course to help the less advantaged lead better lives. I’d certainly welcome service-learning to form part of our curriculum as it will make what I’m studying a lot more purposeful,” said Yan Zhang.

Starting this year, 22 service-learning modules will be rolled out to about 1,600 NP students. By 2018, a total of 50 such modules will be delivered to the entire cohort of close to 4,500 students. (See Appendix A for more details on the implementation of service-learning over the next three years). To-date, about 70 NP lecturers have been trained to deliver service-learning modules, and about 50 more will be trained by end 2016.

Partnerships between NP and external organisations

In order to offer students diverse and meaningful service-learning opportunities, NP has also established links with some 40 local and overseas non-profit organisations for a start. Some of the local partners include Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), AWWA, Yong En Family Service Centre, Bethesda C.A.R.E., Preschool Market, Thye Hwa Kwan Moral Childcare, My First Skool, Sustainable Living Lab (SL2), Make The Change (MTC) and HealthServe. Overseas partners include Lingnan University (Hong Kong) and SMILE Village (Cambodia), amongst others.

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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.

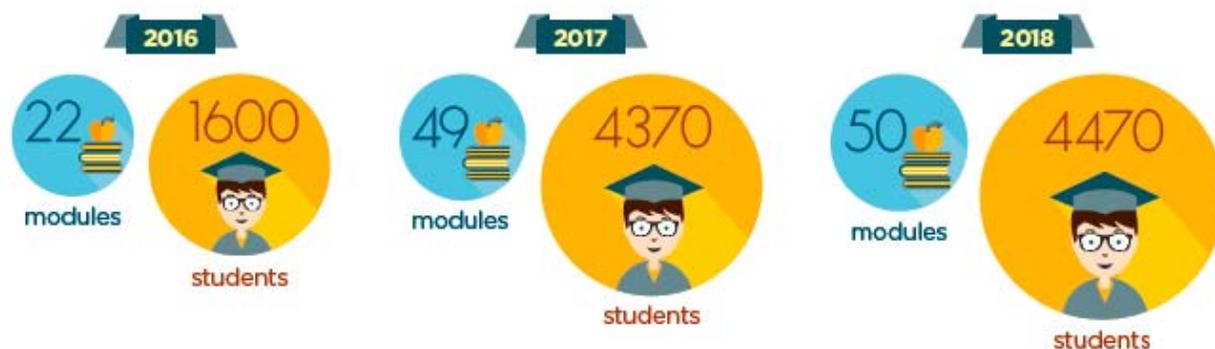
The polytechnic offers 49 full-time courses through its nine academic schools - School of Business & Accountancy, School of Design & Environment, School of Engineering, School of Film & Media Studies, School of Health Sciences, School of Humanities & Social Sciences, School of InfoComm Technology, School 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 a broad-based education, coupled with our signature Service-Learning pedagogy and global exposure, 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

Appendix A – Rollout of Service-learning over next 3 years

The following infographic shows the total number of Service-learning modules (“modules”) delivered over the next 3 years and the corresponding total number of students (“students”) taking the Service-learning modules.



Sample List of Service-learning Modules in AY2016

Diploma	Service-learning Module	Year 1/2/3	No. of Students
Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management	Customer Relationship Management	1	90
Advertising & Public Relations	Introduction to Advertising	1	36
Visual Effects	Location Production	1	60
Film, Sound & Video	Documentary Production	2	60
Mass Communication	Public Relations	2	36
Chinese Media & Communication	News Reporting & Feature Writing	1	45
Psychology	Managing Disabilities	1	50
Psychology	Behaviour Modification & Intervention	2	75
Arts Business Management	Festival & Event Management	2	46
Chinese Studies	Modern Chinese Literature	2	41
Chinese Studies	Project Development	2	41
Business & Social Enterprise	Project Management for Social Enterprise (OIP with Lingnan University)	2	42

Diploma	Service-learning Module	Year 1/2/3	No. of Students
Business & Social Enterprise	Internship	3	2
Health Sciences (Nursing)	Singapore and World Issues	2	500
Optometry	Low Vision and Community Optometry	3	40
Multimedia & Animation	Light, Color & Design	1	75
Animation & 3D Arts			
Information Security & Forensics	Vulnerabilities 101	1	40
Veterinary Bioscience	Wildlife Conservation & Biodiversity	1	35
Environment & Water Technology	Global Environmental Issues	1	40
Engineering Science	Fundamental of Object Oriented Programming	1	55