



MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST JOINT INCUBATOR FOR POLYTECHNICS (“POLLINATE”) AT BLOCK 71 To support spirit of entrepreneurship in polytechnic alumni

Singapore, 18 September 2017 — A tablet menu-ordering system which speeds up the delivery of food to your table, even when the Internet is down. A simple and convenient way to understand insurance, without having to deal with messy paperwork and email.

These start-ups by polytechnic alumni are part of a new incubator called “Pollinate” at the JTC Launchpad @ one-north at Block 71 Ayer Rajah Crescent, which is home to more than 500 start-ups and incubators.

Pollinate is the first joint incubator to support entrepreneurship efforts primarily by polytechnic alumni. To date, there are 14 start-ups in Pollinate and there are plans to grow this number to 30 in three years.

The incubator, which occupies 728 square metres, is jointly governed by three polytechnics, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic.

Mr Clarence Ti, Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, said: “At Ngee Ann Polytechnic, we have our own incubator on campus to support student entrepreneurs who are keen to start a business venture. With Pollinate, we hope to continue to support these students even after they have graduated to enable them to grow their start-ups, and provide opportunities for cross-pollination of ideas and projects.”

Mr Soh Wai Wah, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Polytechnic, shared that four Singapore Polytechnic alumni have successfully crystallised their start-up ideas in Pollinate. He said: “This is a good head-start for alumni and student entrepreneurs to connect and benefit from Singapore’s start-up ecosystem and industries. This would spur them to develop innovations that could go global as well as impact our future economy.”

Mr Peter Lam, Principal & CEO, Temasek Polytechnic, added that polytechnics provide hands-on education that prepares students well for entrepreneurship. He said: “Pollinate is part of the polytechnics’ strategy to support and groom our students and alumni in their entrepreneurial ventures. We want to encourage our students and alumni to take full advantage of Pollinate to develop and grow their start-ups.”

Start-ups at Pollinate will get to enjoy facilities at the JTC LaunchPad at affordable rental. Pollinate will also nurture entrepreneurship among current students in polytechnics by offering training, internships, mentorship, networking sessions and workshops.

Nonetheless, the incubator – also hopes to woo start-ups by non-polytechnic graduates as well as those from overseas. Currently, two out of the 14 start-ups here are foreign-owned. There are plans to partner with overseas incubators in places such as Silicon Valley so that start-ups here can expand to overseas markets.

The incubator is funded by NRF for the first three years and is an accredited Mentor Partner to SPRING's Startup SG Founders' Grant.

- End -

For media queries, please contact:

Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Ms Sangeetha Naidu
Corporate Communications Office
DID: +65 6460 6232
Email: sangeetha@np.edu.sg

For more information on the various polytechnics, please visit:

Ngee Ann Polytechnic
www.np.edu.sg

Singapore Polytechnic
www.sp.edu.sg

Temasek Polytechnic
www.tp.edu.sg