

MEDIA RELEASE

NGEE ANN POLY BUILDS TALENT PIPELINE FOR WHOLESALE TRADE SECTOR WITH NEW DIPLOMA

Diploma in International Trade & Business to focus on business skills for the digital and global economy

Singapore, 8 January 2018– Since young, Pow Jia Yun has been helping out in her grandmother’s rubber plantation in Malaysia. When she saw the price of latex skyrocketing because of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, she was fascinated how global events could have an impact on prices of commodities. That sparked her interest in international business, and she decided to follow her passion by applying for the Diploma in International Trade & Business (ITB) during the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE) in June 2017. The 17-year-old student is one of the 23 successful EAE applicants whom Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) has given conditional offers into this new diploma. They will secure their places in the course as long as they meet the entry requirements.

The first of its kind offered by a local polytechnic, ITB is launched to help build a talent pipeline for the wholesale trade industry. Jointly developed with International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, the diploma was announced at the Wholesale Trade Industry Transformation Map (ITM) launch in September¹, which aims to help companies digitalise to capture global growth opportunities and enhance productivity. This includes building trade connectivity through digital platforms, strengthening enterprise capabilities and developing talent equipped with deep skills for digitalisation and internationalisation.

The industry continues to grow strongly with Asia’s rising population, urbanisation and consumerism driving trade flows. The ITB’s curriculum includes opportunities for students to hone their business skills through internship and overseas programmes. Students will gain an understanding of international trade practices and learn skills in domain areas such as finance, purchasing and logistics. As work processes in the wholesale trade industry become increasingly digitalised, ITB students will

¹ IE Singapore and Ngee Ann Polytechnic signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the ITB at the Wholesale Trade ITM launch.

also be equipped with skillsets required for the future of trade. For example, they will learn to harness the power of data analytics and develop digital solutions to drive business growth.

One key highlight of the programme is the optional International Business Exploration and Study Trip that gives students exposure to the business environment in Southeast Asia and regional countries such as China. They may also get to intern up to six months at global commercial hubs in Thailand, Indonesia, China, Australia or even Africa.

Graduates from this course will stand ready to fill new jobs expected to be created in the trade industry especially as technological advancements impact the global marketplace, business models and job functions. They will be sought after in areas such as international business analysis, trade coordination, import and export compliance, digital marketing, e-commerce, procurement, market research and supply chain.

Mrs Anna Yap, Director of NP's School of Business & Accountancy, said: "The Diploma in International Trade & Business will be a signature programme offered by our business school, in collaboration with a strong partner like IE Singapore. With a robust curriculum anchored on real-world learning and future skills, we are confident that ITB students will be well-placed for the fast-growing wholesale trade industry which is also undergoing digital transformation."

Ms Angeline Chan, Group Director of IE Singapore's Capability Development Group, said: "Wholesale trade is a key industry that adds to Singapore's economic growth and creates jobs for Singaporeans. The ITM will help wholesale trade companies meet changing business needs through technology adoption and access new overseas markets for future growth. By working with partners such as Ngee Ann Polytechnic to develop the first trade-related diploma programme in Singapore incorporating modules on new business needs like digital business solutions and analytics, we can groom a pipeline of future talents for the industry."

The course will begin in April 2018 with an estimated enrolment of 120 students.

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