



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **LEARNING IN DEED: Ngee ANN POLYTECHNIC PARTNERS WORLD VISION SINGAPORE TO FUEL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING EFFORTS**

#### ***New Service-Learning Champs Network will tap on INGO's expertise to empower students to be social leaders***

*Singapore, 13 January 2018* – Troubled by Kenyan girls skipping school during their menstruation, Angela Merciar initiated *Wing Her to School*, a project to provide sanitary pads to girls in Kenya. To encourage young people to take action to address real community needs, Ernest Wong started *Camp Hiro*, a social enterprise that educates youth on issues such as the ageing population and the environment. Both Angela and Ernest, final-year Business & Social Enterprise students in Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), are young leaders who champion social causes. To encourage more of such champions, NP inked a Memorandum of Understanding today with World Vision Singapore (WVS) to advance Service-Learning efforts through creating more meaningful opportunities for students to be active social advocates here and abroad.

As part of the MOU, both parties will collaborate on areas of youth development, co-creation of social action projects, championing of social causes, sharing of expertise through mentorship, and internship opportunities.

This timely collaboration underscores NP's commitment to instil purposeful learning in students. Less than two years since the launch of Service-Learning as its signature pedagogy, the polytechnic has implemented some 50 Service-Learning modules, enabling close to 6,000 students to be involved in positive change efforts in the community.

In a dip-stick survey that was conducted to evaluate the impact of Service-Learning in NP in 2017, close to 70% of 600 respondents stated that they became more motivated to continue working with communities. In addition, 75% of the respondents indicated that their experience enabled them to apply what they have learnt in the classroom to impact the community at large.

To bolster students' civic capabilities and to encourage social advocacy even after they have completed their Service-Learning module or Youth Expedition Project (YEP), NP also kick-started its new **Service-Learning Champs Network** with some 70 students currently on board. These champs will be given opportunities to participate in social impact hackathons, youth summits, and international service-learning trips. They will be encouraged to embark on their own social action initiatives or lend their support to projects helmed by fellow champs.

For starters, the champs will be involved in supporting WVS's Survival Fund with a fundraising project. The Survival Fund is a new and unique initiative. In addition to relief interventions that provide aid to the victims of humanitarian crises, the Fund will support programmes which enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities before disasters strike, and facilitate the rehabilitation and recovery of these communities. Later in the year, about 20 champs will embark on an international service-learning project in Son Tra, Vietnam, where WVS has been supporting intervention programmes that strengthen the economic development prospects and child protection capabilities of urban poor communities, as well as their resilience against natural disasters. There, the champs will be involved in enhancing the economic prospects of disadvantaged Vietnamese youth through the facilitation of workshops on life skills and employability skills. They will also engage in community service activities which will expose them to the needs of the wider community in Son Tra. In addition, the champs will be involved in scoping out a social enterprise project, under the guidance of a Singaporean business volunteer mentor.

"This MOU will create a unique opportunity for NP students to expand and enrich their scope of Service-Learning by incorporating 'Service-Doing' and Social Entrepreneurship", said Mr Liew Heng San, Chairman of the Advisory Council of World Vision Singapore. "Cause-inspired youth from NP will be able to combine what they've learnt as students with authentic service in World Vision's Area Development Programmes for disadvantaged communities. And when coupled with mentorship from industry business leaders, they will have first-hand experience of what it takes to develop rigorous and sustainable solutions to socio-economic challenges in the region."

Added Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of NP: "This partnership with World Vision Singapore, with its networks in over 100 countries and expertise in working with underprivileged communities, will be significant for our Service-Learning Champs Network and allow us to step up our international Service-Learning efforts. We want to encourage our students to champion social causes they are passionate about and we hope to groom a generation that is empowered to change the world."

NP aims to grow the Service-Learning Champs Network to 200 by the end of 2018.

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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 about 15,000 full-time students, 2,000 part-time students and an alumni community of over 130,000. The polytechnic offers 48 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 Pedagogies in the Profession and Service-Learning approach, 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](http://www.np.edu.sg)

**About World Vision Singapore**

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with vulnerable children, families, and communities worldwide to enable them to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. Working in nearly 100 countries worldwide, World Vision serves all people on the basis of need, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or nationality. Our programmes address a range of essential needs which have a critical bearing on the well-being of children and the wider community in which they live. These needs include humanitarian and emergency response, food and water security, health and nutrition, education, economic development, and child protection. World Vision works closely in partnership with United Nations agencies, including the World Food Programme, the UN refugee agency, and UNICEF, on issues that have an impact on the safety, health, and developmental potential of children. 41 million children were direct beneficiaries of World Vision's work internationally in FY16. In the same period, World Vision Singapore helped over 860,000 people across Asia, Africa and the Middle East through development programmes, as well as over 1 million people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the Syrian crisis and the drought in India. In the past year, World Vision Singapore has also been a major supporter of relief efforts carried out in response to the severe famine in East Africa and the Myanmar-Bangladesh refugee crisis.

For more information, please visit [www.worldvision.org.sg](http://www.worldvision.org.sg)