



Singapore Manufacturing  
Federation  
新加坡制造商总会

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GROOMING YOUNG TALENTS TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVITY-CONSCIOUS INAUGURAL COMPETITION FOR POLYTECHNIC & JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ORGANISED BY SMF**

22 March 2014 – Some graduating students from several Polytechnics and Junior Colleges had a foretaste of how productivity can be used to solve business issues at the Singapore Manufacturing Federation this afternoon. These students were the finalists of a competition, the **SiPi Challenge Trophy for Higher Education**, organised by the Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute (SiPi) on 22 March 2014. SiPi is the national agency under the umbrella of Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) that drives innovation and productivity in the manufacturing community in Singapore.

#### **Raising productivity awareness through SiPi Challenge Trophy**

Schools which participated in the SiPi Challenge Trophy included Republic Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Innova Junior College, Yishun Junior College, Hwa Chong Institution and National Junior College.

The top five teams which participated in the final challenge and presented their final presentation this afternoon came from Republic Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, National Junior College and Hwa Chong Institution.

“The culture of productivity is transmitted from one generation to another generation. The SiPi Productivity Challenge Trophy is the first of its kind. This is to inculcate awareness and to generate levels of interest for the younger generation. We are pleased that the Polytechnics

and Junior Colleges have demonstrated overwhelming support for this event,” said Mr. Douglas Foo, Deputy President of Singapore Manufacturing Federation.

The SiPi Productivity Challenge Trophy 2014 is an inaugural competition designed to provide industry insights for the graduating students. The challenge was divided into two parts. The first part was an industry knowledge quiz, whereby shortlisted participants gained the opportunity to attend the productivity workshop conducted by SMF. For the second and final part of the Challenge held on 22 March 2014, students were given problem-solving scenarios to work on and develop solutions based on the theme on productivity.

The champion school was Republic Polytechnic which received a cash prize of S\$2,000 and S\$450 worth of Personal Development Training voucher. The first runner-up, Temasek Polytechnic and second runner-up, Hwa Chong Institution also received cash prizes of S\$1,000 and S\$500 respectively, together with Personal Development vouchers.

In addition, Mr. Yeo Ming Hui from Temasek Polytechnic was identified as the Individual Champion for Industry Knowledge Quiz.

“The SiPi Challenge Trophy for Higher Education is a good experience for the students. Productivity issues are constantly in the news. We are interested to participate in this challenge to create awareness of productivity for our students. Through this challenge, we aim to let the students understand what productivity means particularly in the manufacturing sector. Students may not be very familiar with productivity; however productivity is one of the key growth drivers for the workforce. We hope that through this experience, students would have a better understanding of productivity in the industry,” said Mr. Tham Han Rong, a Chemistry teacher from Innova Junior College.

“The SiPi Challenge Trophy for Higher Education is a mini test of the skill-sets learnt in school for my students. In their Diploma programme, the students learn about productivity and process optimization. Through this challenge, they are able to witness the application of the tools they learnt from the textbook. It is a beneficial experience for the students before they move on to their final year, whereby they will be embarking on an attachment programme,” shared Dr. Tony Halim, Section Head, Business Process & Systems Engineering, Temasek Polytechnic.

“The SiPi Challenge Trophy for Higher Education is an excellent learning experience for our students to apply what they have learned in their coursework. It is an opportunity to expose our students to professional organizations like Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute (SiPi)) as well as government agencies like Workforce Development Agency (WDA) and SPRING Singapore. The workshop conducted on 14 March 2014 is a useful recap of key concepts related to productivity which highlights the main issues in the case study. This initiative by SMF creates greater awareness and understanding of the Singapore SMEs amongst the students. It is “three-win” for the SMEs, the government agencies as well as the targeted graduating students, who will become the future employees of the SMEs,” commented Mr. Seow Ai Hoe, Senior Academic Staff, School of Engineering, Diploma in Supply Management, Republic Polytechnic.

“The SIPI Challenge Trophy for Higher Education provides a platform for students to exercise their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and to brainstorm innovative solutions. The workshop held on 14 March was an informative session. It helped the students to prepare for their presentation in the final competition. This initiative organised by SMF has created more awareness of the Federation and broadened the students’ perspectives on their career choices,” said Mr. Low Kay Siang, Hwa Chong Institution.

“The SiPi Challenge Trophy for Higher Education is not just a competition. It is also a superb platform for our students to learn about productivity, process optimisation and SME industries from the experts. As productivity is key to the growth of Singapore's economy, the knowledge and skills gained to manage and improve productivity will benefit our students tremendously in their future career development. The workshop was well-organised with close guidance from the professional productivity coaches. It has enabled our students to understand the complex issues related to productivity through realistic scenarios, and apply practical tools to analyse and solve these issues. The competition is a great opportunity for students to acquire new skills and network with the experts,” commented Mr. Koh Wee Hiong, Director, SoE Directorate, Diploma in Engineering Science, Nanyang Polytechnic.

## **SMF CET Fair**

Held concurrently with the SiPi Challenge Trophy was the SMF Career, Education, and Training (CET) Fair 2014. Supported by SMF Institute of Higher Learning, SMF Centre for Corporate Learning, SME Centre@SMF, e2i, SPRING Singapore, WDA, and the Goldbell Group, the CET Fair 2014 has received enthusiastic response from job seekers, students and working professionals alike. The Fair featured activities ranging from educational visits to seminars and talks hosted by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and guest speakers. Participants also visited the soft skills clinic for career and course consultation as well as guidance in effective interviewing or networking skills. Murdoch and Edith Cowan University also gave a preview on the courses available at SMF Institute of Higher Learning.

## **About Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF)**

Established since 1932, SMF represents the interest of the Singapore manufacturing community, driving its competitiveness and sustainable growth through serving industry-specific needs. Supported by 10 industry groups and 6 Centres of Excellence, SMF enhances the competitiveness of the industry by encouraging capacity development and capability building, and innovation-led productivity. It provides opportunities for companies to collaborate, network and to grow and expand both locally and internationally. Current membership stands at more than 3,000 corporate members ranging from SMEs to MNCs. For more information, please visit [www.smfederation.org.sg](http://www.smfederation.org.sg)

## **About Singapore Innovation and Productivity Institute Pte Ltd (SiPi)**

SiPi is a knowledge enterprise set up by Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and supported by SPRING Singapore to drive innovation and productivity excellence in Singapore's manufacturing sector. Its key functions include providing productivity resources and project customisation/coaching to help enterprises implement their specific productivity roadmaps, as well as undertaking research and benchmarking to steer industry development. The institute forms close collaboration with Singapore government agencies, industry experts, academia and overseas institutes to develop tools, case studies and to localise best practices. It also has a distinguished Board of Advisors to guide and provide feedback on its

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

### **About SMF Institute of Higher Learning**

Established in 2003, SMF Institute of Higher Learning is one of the leading private education providers in Singapore. SMF Institute offers a wide range of academic and executive education programmes. Courses range from Accounting, Banking and Finance, Human Resource, Communication, Journalism, Psychology to Sports Science and many more. Students have a choice of both day or evening classes to choose from. The institute also works with renowned universities and professional bodies to offer internationally recognized qualifications.

The Institute is wholly owned by Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), a not-for-profit organisation representing the interest of Singapore's manufacturing sector. From a humble beginning of 25 students in 2003, the Institute now has a large student population pursuing courses in various certificates, diplomas, bachelors and master degrees.

The Institute's certificates and diplomas are uniquely recognized and endorsed by the various industry groups under SMF. These industry groups include Energy and Chemicals, Lifestyle, Food and Beverage, Medical Technology and others. Such an endorsement is a strong recognition of our robust, industry-relevant curriculum we provide to our students.

In May 2010, SMF Institute was amongst the early batch of private educational institutions (PEIs) to be registered under the Council for Private Education's (CPE) Enhanced Registration Framework (ERF). By September 2010, SMF Institute was awarded certification under the voluntary EduTrust certification scheme by CPE. This distinguishes SMF Institute as one of the higher quality providers in the Singapore's private education industry.

SMF Institute is committed to providing a holistic education and development of our students. With the support from the 3,000 member-strong Singapore Manufacturing Federation, our students will continue to enjoy excellent industry linkages for greater learning and networking opportunities.

For more information on SMF Institute of Higher Learning, please visit [www.smf.edu.sg](http://www.smf.edu.sg)

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