

At the signing of the memorandum of understanding yesterday were (from left): Mr Lim Kok Kiang, principal and CEO of Ngee Ann Polytechnic; Mr Ng Tian Beng, Dell's senior vice-president and general manager for Channel, Asia-Pacific and Japan; Professor Chua Kee Chaing, president-designate of the Singapore Institute of Technology; Mr Tan Kiat How, Minister of State for Communications and Information; Professor Timothy Clark, provost of Singapore Management University; Mr Amit Midha, Dell's president for the Asia-Pacific and Japan, and Global Digital Cities; and Mr Soh Wai Wah, principal and CEO of Singapore Polytechnic.  
PHOTO: DELL TECHNOLOGIES



# Unis, polys join hands with Dell on emerging tech curriculum

Students can acquire skills tied to tech like Internet of Things and cloud computing

Dominic Low

Students of four institutes of higher learning here can look forward to new curriculum content related to emerging technologies like cloud computing in the next few years.

Singapore Management University, Singapore Institute of Technology, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and tech giant Dell Technologies are collaborating on the new learning content.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance the pre-employment training curriculum was signed by representatives of the organisations yesterday at the Dell Executive Briefing and Solution Centre in Changi Business Park.

The new programme seeks to equip students across the four educational institutes with critical skills linked to new and emerging technologies, such as cloud computing, the Internet of Things and digital cities management.

It also aims to build and attract a robust talent pipeline for the local information and communications technology sector, according to a statement issued by Dell yesterday.

Under the partnership, new content will be developed for curriculum modules, as well as specialist diploma and degree courses.

Dell said: "Beyond curriculum design, students can benefit from Dell industry experts' insights, and mentorship will be offered to students as they navigate final-year projects and industry attachments."

They will also have access to self-guided e-learning courses via Dell's digital learning platform.

These courses provide students with practical tech knowledge and skills that are in demand by the information and communications technology sector.

For now, Dell and the educational institutes seek to enhance the curriculum of more than 5,000 students – mostly in IT courses – via the new programme in the next two years.

But there are plans to review the programme after that, and even expand it.

Development of the new curriculum has already begun, with the content finalised for some of the modules offered by the educational institutes.

Dell said the new programme comes under its Digital Future – Made in Singapore initiative, which aims to fast-track the adoption of future-ready digital solutions and drive innovations in Singapore for partners and customers globally to be future-ready.

In a speech at the event yesterday, Mr Amit Midha, Dell's president for the Asia-Pacific and Japan and Global Digital Cities, said: "While technology remains critical and central, and will continue to advance, we must remember that it is our talent that sits at the heart of digital innovation."

"The key foundational block is ensuring that we have the right skill set and training in place to shape a workforce that leads the way in innovation and accelerates progress."

Minister of State for Communications and Information Tan Kiat How, who witnessed the MOU signing, said the technology space is developing very rapidly, disrupting business models and creating new job roles and opportunities.

"And to seize these opportunities in a digital economy, we need to be nimble," he added.

"But importantly, we need to have a strong partnership between the industry and our institutes of higher learning – both for pre-employment training and for continuing education training."

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