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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NTUC LearningHub partners CIPD to offer HR professional qualification and personal development programmes in Singapore**

- **Accreditation will enable HR professionals to stay ahead of the curve**
- **CIPD's first Honorary Fellowship recipient in Asia – Ms Yong Ying-I, Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Division - a role model for the HR profession**

Singapore, 4 November 2016 – NTUC LearningHub (LHUB) and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to offer the CIPD's HR qualifications and professional development programmes in Singapore. The CIPD is the professional body for HR and people development with a highly respected royal charter.

Under the partnership, NTUC LearningHub will offer the following CIPD accredited qualifications and programmes:

- Level 3 Foundation Certificate & Diploma qualifications in HR
- Level 3 Foundation Certificate & Diploma qualifications in Learning & Development (L&D)
- Executive Development Series; and
- Masterclass Workshops with CIPD experts on HR and L&D topics.

Said Mr Kwek Kok Kwong, CEO of NTUC LearningHub: "We are pleased to partner CIPD to offer its cutting-edge human resource courses to Singapore's current and future HR practitioners. We do this with the hope that we can develop a group of HR change agents who can influence and shape the future of the workforce. Leveraging on CIPD's deep expertise and industry knowledge in HR, we hope to build a strong HR and L&D community here in Singapore."

Said Mr Peter Cheese, CEO of the CIPD: "The CIPD is proud to work with NTUC LearningHub to support, train and develop the capabilities of HR and L&D practitioners in Singapore. The

professionalisation of the HR industry gives legitimacy to the profession and raises standards across the board. We intend to work closely with key stakeholders in the HR ecosystem – the government, the union, businesses and qualification providers – to help Singapore fulfill that ambition.”

The programmes are targeted at existing HR practitioners, mid-career executives exploring a second career in HR, as well as older workers who need reskilling due to structural unemployment.

For a start, NTUC LearningHub aims to equip at least 250 professionals in 2017 with the CIPD qualifications. It expects the demand to increase yearly as professional qualifications lead to better recognition, employability and career prospects.

As part of the collaboration, NTUC LearningHub and the CIPD also plan to co-build a community for future HR and L&D leaders in Singapore where they can learn, share and exchange ideas, as well as network and build relationships.

### **HR as a strategic partner to businesses**

Intensifying competition, increasing expectations of the workforce, the rise of alternative work arrangements, rapid technological changes as well as generational shifts are transforming the HR landscape in Singapore. The HR profession must transform its image from one which is viewed as administrative to one that is more strategic, and playing a key role in partnering business leaders.

A key part of Singapore’s Labour Movement, spearheaded by the National Trade Union’s Congress (NTUC), is to support the national agenda to professionalise HR by upskilling executives so that they can become globally and regionally competitive.

The NTUC LearningHub-CIPD MoU underscores NTUC LearningHub’s commitment, as a social enterprise, to support the Labour Movement and help Singaporeans improve their lifelong employability through skills upgrading.

The CIPD's internationally-recognised set of qualifications will provide HR practitioners with the professional accreditation to stay ahead of the curve in business redesign, talent retention and performance reward.

Said Mr Kwek Kok Kwong: “NTUC LearningHub’s vision in this partnership is to raise the bar for the HR profession. By equipping HR professionals with higher skills relevant in this decade and next, they can then become strategic partners of business leaders by executing impactful and innovative people strategies. This has a strategic impact in ensuring our human capital continue to sharpen the competitive edge for our economy.

### **CIPD confers first Honorary Fellowship in Asia**

Following the MoU signing ceremony held at the “The Changing Future of Work” seminar and panel discussion in Suntec City, the CIPD also conferred Honorary Fellowship on Ms Yong Ying-I, Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Division, Prime Minister’s Office.

The Honorary Fellowship acknowledges the work of individuals who have championed better working lives and set the standard for people excellence in business or society. At the Public Service Division, Ms Yong leads her team in engaging all 143, 000 officers of the Singapore Public Service to develop a strong leadership corp, build future-ready organisations, and promote good governance across all public agencies.

Said Mr Peter Cheese: “We are proud to confer the CIPD’s first Honorary Fellowship in Asia to Ms Yong-Ying-I. This important recognition marks her out as an exemplar of the leadership, passion and commitment that is needed to build engaged workforces and positive workplaces consistent with good principles and ready for the future. Her illustrious career in the Singapore Public Service makes her a most deserving recipient of this award, and I look forward to working with her further to promote better work and working lives.”

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## About NTUC LearningHub

NTUC LearningHub was corporatised in 2004 with the vision of transforming the lifelong employability of working people. We work with both corporates and individuals particularly in the areas of Infocomm Technology, Soft Skills & Literacy, Workplace Safety & Health, and Customer Service Training.

To date, NTUC LearningHub have helped 13,700 organisations, and trained more than 1.9 million workers in Singapore across 600 courses, with a pool of 1,300 trainers. We seek to continually innovate and enhance our training content and methods via technology, in order to be relevant to industry and provide engaging, meaningful training for learners. <http://www.ntuclearninghub.com>

## About the CIPD

The CIPD is the professional body of HR and people development. Headquartered in the UK with offices in Ireland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The not-for-profit organisation champions better work and working lives and has been setting the benchmark for excellence in people and organisation development for more than 100 years. It has more than 140,000 members across the world, provides thought leadership through independent research on the world of work, and offers professional training and accreditation for those working in HR and L&D.

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