



Swimmer Amanda Lim (above) and sailor Darren Choy, with Singapore Sports School principal Deborah Tan (below), were the school's outstanding female and male students last year. PHOTOS: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE AND AZIZ HUSSIN

Republic Poly and SSP tie up for course

BY FRANKIE CHEE

FINAL-YEAR students from the Singapore Sports School (SSP) will have a new sports management diploma programme to aspire to next year.

The Woodlands-based school announced yesterday that it will be jointly offering a new Diploma in Sports and Leisure Management (DSLML) with neighbouring Republic Polytechnic in 2011.

The three-year customised DSLML, to be offered only to SSP students, will replace the two-year Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Diploma in Sports Management and Exercise Science programme that the SSP has been offering to its graduating students since 2007.

Both SSP and RP signed a memorandum of agreement yesterday. The signing, which took place before the SSP's annual awards night, was witnessed by Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Community Development, Youth and Sports) Teo Ser Luck.

The DSLML's curriculum will be designed by RP's School of Sports, Health



and Leisure (SHL), while SSP will provide coaching expertise and sports science support.

"The DSLML will match sports training and development programmes more closely, and offer student athletes another option in academic pacing and assessment," said SSP principal Deborah Tan.

Students must meet an academic criteria, and also have a minimum level of sporting achievements, to be eligible for the DSLML - which will cost \$2,213.25 annually, just over a quarter of the annual \$8,000-plus annual fee

of the AUT diploma.

Its modules include sports business, sports management and sports and leisure-related law, said Dr Michael Koh, director of RP's SHL.

Upon graduation, students can further their education at local universities, as well as some overseas ones.

At last night's ceremony, the SSP named World Byte and Asian Youth Games champion sailor Darren Choy, 16, and South-east Asia Games 50m freestyle gold medallist Amanda Lim, 17, as their outstanding male and female students for last year.

Sports School to offer diploma

SINGAPORE — From next year, the Singapore Sports School and Republic Polytechnic (RP) will offer a diploma in sports and leisure management.

It aims to accommodate the students' training and competition schedules and was designed by RP's School of Sports, Health and Leisure.

The diploma programme will be conducted at both campuses. Its key is its flexibility, and its customised programme on campus, said Singapore Sports School principal Deborah Tan yesterday.

“The long-term development of our athletes is crucial, and this programme allows us to meet that need on top of our International Baccalaureate programme,” she said.

Dr Michael Koh, director of RP's School of Sports, Health

and Leisure, said it is “the springboard for higher education for all students”.

Graduate students will be able to further their studies at the Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University, or gain direct admission to universities in Australia and United Kingdom.

Aimed at those in the sports school's six-year, through-train programme, the three-year course will cost \$2,213 a year.

It will replace the Auckland University of Technology's (AUT) current two-year diploma in sports management and exercise science, which was launched in 2007. AUT's programme cost about \$8,000 a year.

A minimum of 18 students are expected to sign up for the programme. **LOW LIN FHOONG**