



ITE 06/18/01

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**Information Embargoed
Until 1130 hrs on 25 Nov 2009**

ITE INTRODUCES NEW FULL-TIME BIOLOGICS COURSE ***Move to plug manpower demand in double-digit growth Biologics sector***

With US\$2 billion (around S\$2.8 billion) worth of investments within the last four years, Singapore's fledgling biologics manufacturing industry is set to see meteoric growth. The biologics industry is growing at a rate of 10 to 15 per cent a year, compared to one per cent for the pharmaceutical industry as a whole. By 2010, analysts expect sales of biologics products to make up 60 per cent of the sales growth of drugs¹.

2 GCE 'N' and 'O' school leavers who aspire to carve a career in this high-value field will now have an additional platform to do so, with the introduction of a new full-time **National ITE Certificate (*Nitec*) in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics)** course at ITE in January 2010.

3 To be announced by ITE's Chairman, Mr Bob Tan, on **Wednesday 25 November 2009**, at a **News Conference** at ITE Headquarters, the new course will meet critical manpower needs in the industry. Mr Tan will make the announcement following the visit by ITE Board of Governors and Senior Management to GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals at Tuas South Ave 8.

Developing Skilled Talents for the Burgeoning Biologics Industry

4 Figures from the Singapore Economic Development Board indicate that the biomedical sciences manufacturing sector generated a manufacturing output of S\$19 billion in 2008. The industry currently employs more than 12,000 workers, with the value-added per worker estimated at S\$0.8 million².

¹ Extracted from an article "S'pore set to tap biologics industry" that was published on page D9 of The Straits Times dated 10 January 2009

² Data is extracted from "Biomedical Sciences Factsheet 2009", a publication from the Singapore Economic Development Board

5 Explaining the rationale behind the new two-year full-time *Nitec* in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics) course, Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE, said: “ITE works closely with key industry players in developing the course curriculum and skill standards that would match the needs of the industry. Students will undergo training to equip them with broad-based skills and knowledge to operate and maintain biologics production equipment and facilities, monitor and control processes to produce therapeutic products from biological systems in a biopharmaceutical environment. This would ensure the supply of well-trained process or plant operations personnel for the Biologics sector.”

Strong Industry Endorsement for Programme

6 Industry players gave the new course the thumbs-up, citing the limited pool of skilled manpower. Mr Vincent Hingot, Site Director of GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, said: “Singapore is still relatively new in the biologics and bio-pharmaceuticals industry. As the pool of ready talent is small today, much investment and efforts in the public and private sectors are needed to develop Singapore’s capabilities in these areas. With the Government’s strong support and commitment to this sector, we see increasingly more reputable pharmaceutical firms making Singapore a base for their biologics operations in the region.”

Invitation to the Media

7 Media members are cordially invited to cover the **ITE Board of Governors’ Visit to GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals and News Conference on 25 November 2009**. The programme for the visit is at **Annex A**. More details on the *Nitec* in Chemical Process Technology (Biologics) course will be announced during the news conference.

8 Transportation from ITE Headquarters at 10 Dover Drive to the company, and back, will be arranged for the media.

9 Please confirm your attendance by **Tue 24 November 2009** with Ms Joycelyn Seet, Head/Publicity, at tel: 6590 2027, or email: Joycelyn_Seet@ite.edu.sg.

Released on: 24 November 2009

The **Institute of Technical Education (ITE)**, Singapore, was established as a post-secondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore’s workforce competitiveness. Under its “**One ITE System, Three Colleges**” Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising **ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West**. For more information, please visit www.ite.edu.sg.

**NEWS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE
NEW NITEC IN CHEMICAL PROCESS TECHNOLOGY (BIOLOGICS) COURSE
AND ITE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' VISIT TO GLAXOSMITHKLINE BIOLOGICALS**

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2009

Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>
0915 hours	Arrival at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Biologicals	10 Tuas South Ave 8, Singapore 637421
0920 hours	Corporate Presentation by GSK Biologicals Question-and-Answer Session Tour of Plant: i) Quality Control Laboratory ii) Value Stream Facility	
1040 hours	End of Visit at GSK Biologicals Proceed to ITE Headquarters for News Conference	
1115 hours	News Conference	Board Room, Level 9, ITE Headquarters, 10 Dover Drive
1145 hours	Reception	Function Room, Level 1, ITE Headquarters