



PRESS RELEASE

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OKURA SETS UP GLOBAL BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS IN SINGAPORE

1. The Okura Group of Companies will upgrade its current operations in Singapore and use the Republic as its strategic base for conducting, managing & expanding its global business. The new set-up will spearhead the transformation of Okura's worldwide operations.

Global Okura

2. The activities of the Global Business Headquarters will include strategic business planning, marketing and brand building, business development, technical support, sourcing and procurement. It will be used as a platform for Okura to manage global projects for MNCs out of the region. Similarly, the Singapore Campus of the Okura Corporate University will also be upgraded to function under the aegis of the Global Business Headquarters.
3. The Global Business Headquarters is a keystone of Okura's strategic plan to meet the new challenges of global demand. It will leverage on Singapore's strategic location, pro-business government policies, excellent infra-structure and connectivity, including a ready pool of well-trained PMET talents to serve its global interest.
4. This move was made possible through the wealth of experience gained from 20 years of operating in Singapore as a regional office for Okura's business in ASEAN, China and Oceania. Okura aims to enhance its competencies in Singapore and extend these capabilities, expertise & experience to other regions.

5. Okura will work with strategic partners, including education providers, to train and hire technical graduates to broaden their capabilities.

ITE-Okura Centre of Technology

6. One such venture has resulted in the establishment of the ITE-Okura Centre of Technology for Robot Palletizers.
7. Initialized by the MOU signed on 12th June 2009, the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) & Okura will unveil the ITE-Okura Centre of Technology on Friday, 30 October 2009 in ITE College Central.
8. A complete robot palletizing system has been installed. Robot palletizing is a technology widely-adopted in a wide range of industries globally.
9. This initiative fits into ITE's business/industry driven curriculum, ensuring that the information & skills gained by students are beneficial for their entry to the current business/industry landscape.

Knowledge Transfer

10. A number of ITE staff has completed a Robot Palletizer Workshop conducted by Okura engineers. With full operational & programming capabilities for the Okura robot palletizer & their professional educational skills, ITE staff are now equipped to provide comprehensive training to ITE students & Okura's customers.
11. Students will be given opportunities for industry attachments by working with ITE staff or Okura engineers at their customers' respective sites.

12. The centre will also serve as a showcase, demonstration and testing base for Okura's clients and ITE's corporate visitors. Application, applied R&D and testing activities will also be carried out here.
13. With the continuous and growing requirement for capable manpower resources, the robot palletizer-trained students will form an integral part of Singapore's PMET workforce.

Invitation to Media

13. Members of the media are cordially invited to cover the Announcement and Opening Ceremony of the ITE-Okura Centre of Technology for Robot Palletizers. It will be held on **Friday, 30 October 2009** at **9 am** at **ITE College Central (MacPherson Campus), 201 Circuit Road**. The Ceremony Programme and Location Map are attached at Annex A.

15. For confirmation on attendance and arrangement for interviews and photography, please contact:

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About Okura

Okura Flexible Automation Systems Pte Ltd, established in 1989, is the Singapore subsidiary of a leading Japanese industrial automation manufacturer. Okura Yusoki Co., Ltd. Okura provides a complete and distinctive range of products ranging from standard conveyors to robot palletizers and complex sorting systems and services such as installation, maintenance and e-business solutions, to automate the business processes of companies in South-East Asia, China and Oceania. Okura are a global leader in robot palletizing solutions. For more information, please visit www.okura.com.sg.

About the Institute of Technical Education

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.

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
AND
OKURA FLEXIBLE AUTOMATION SYSTEMS PTE LTD

Friday, 30 October 2009, 9 am
ITE College Central (MacPherson Campus)
201 Circuit Road

LOCATION MAP

