Marking 10 years of prepping PMETs for careers in real estate

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Guest-of-Honour:
Mr Lim Swee Say
Minister for Manpower

THE Real Estate & Construction Centre (RECC) and Real Estate & Construction Academy (RECA) on Tuesday celebrated a decade of preparing mid-career professionals for jobs in the real estate and facilities management industry.

Mid-Career Switch Made Possible

Logistic Executive Officer Mr Eugene Lo, 44, was in the logistic sector for almost a decade and wanted a career change. Responding to an NTUC’s eJob’s advertisement targeted at mid-career executives to join the facilities management industry, Mr Lo attended the Job Opportunities Briefing, went through screening and interview sessions, and was placed on a PACE-and-Train programme by eJob. He took up a Post-Graduate Certificate in Building Management & Surveying course and is currently a Condominium Manager.

“The course was useful to newcomers like me as it provided a broad-based overview of the property management industry. It helps me understand the development of the industry and more importantly, what property management entails so I enter this line with awareness of what I am in for.”

Source: NTUC, Labour Movement Annual 2013

1st batch of execs complete job re-training

Retrenched white-collar staff
get new skills for property sector

Chairman of NTUC Tri-partite Committee on Job Re-creation and then-Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC, Mr Lim Swee Say, with the pioneer batch of Re-skilled Property Officers and their employers, NTUC, WDA and RECC officers (24 May 2006)

Retrenched workers have been re-skilled to multi-task so they can be patterned to do administrative work as well as manage people in the maintenance industry.

They are the first white-collar workers to receive such training under the Job Re-creation Programme (JRP), which aims to help workers to do career shifts.

“JRP has proved to be successful, as we have expanded the JRP into the education sector, whereas we have also expanded the adult education sector.”

Mr Lim Swee Say, NTUC Secretary-General
Heartland Heroes

SECDC

When the Going Gets Tough,
the Tough Gets Going

With the current economic downturn, many residents are finding it difficult to cope with their living needs. However, there are still many resilient individuals such as Mr Vincent Khoo, who is set to ride out the storm by shouldering two jobs to provide a better life for his family.

Mr Khoo has been working as a property assistant since November 2008, and is applying the new skills that he learnt.

“Mr Khoo: This job helps ease my financial burdens. With a higher salary now, I am better able to support my family. Although I still teach yoga part time; I do not have to rely solely on one source of income.” - Mr Khoo, 51

A leg up for those who need it

The Government recently unveiled a battery of measures to ease the financial pain for recession- scarred Singaporeans. Radha Basu and Gwendolyjn Ng sum up the key schemes and the groups being helped.

FOR THE RETRENCHED

Better prospects with 90% subsidised training

In March last year, when the economy was still floundering, Madam Aliai Leong, 55, lost her job when the factory she had worked in for more than a decade declared redundancy.

Unemployment and with only an O-level certificate, she was left without any job prospects. She was offered to take part in a course on the basics of building and property management to train staff for vacancies in the property sector.

She was offered that elusive job even before the 13Y-week course was over and now works in property maintenance at Changi Airport, where she supervises the cleanliness of toilets.

The course, which cost $2,358 but 90% paid for was subsidised by the Skills Programme for Upgrading and Resilience Operas, a $160 million scheme to train workers; the employer paid the rest.

“My husband is a sailor and my older job gave us the money to pay for the course. The money was also paid to the cost of three grown-up children. “There is no way I could have afforded the course without government help.”

Today, she earns a four-digit salary. “I don’t want to depend on my children, so the training was very useful. It helped me get the job.”

WHAT’S NEW IN THE BUDGET?

The scheme helps not only jobless workers, but also those employed at companies which wish to make use of the downturn to upskill their workers.

The amount will be paid for up to 60 per cent of the course fee, and up to $2,000 a year of a worker’s salary but this capped at $3,000 in total.

The low-skilled will be paid $4 for every hour they are trained, and the high-skilled, up to $1,000 a month.

Workers also have more than 100 courses to opt for – significantly up from 190 last year.
Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean with Custodian Cadet Ahmad Muzakir and Dr Ahmad Magad, Chairman of Pasir Ris-Punggol Town Council & Members of Parliament, Messrs Charles Chong & Michael Palmer at the Pasir-Ris Punggol TC Tree Planting Day (15 November 2009)

Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister State for Home Affairs and Law with the inaugural batch of Building Custodians, Mdm Cynthia Phua, Chairperson Aljunied Town Council, and WDA, NTUC and RECC officers (14 August 2007)