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)

1st batch of execs complete job re-training

Retrenched white-collar staff get new skills for property sector

BY AARON LOW

NEW work avenues are opening up for jobless executives, with the successful completion yesterday of the first re-training programme for white-collar workers in the property sector.

These retrenched workers have been re-skilled to multi-task so they can, for instance, do administrative work as well as manage people in the property management and maintenance industry.

They are the first white-collar workers to receive such training under the Job Re-Creation Programme (JRP), which aims to train workers to do more so that they can earn more.

This “breakthrough” has prompted the labour movement to expand the JRP into the education sector, where the goal is to produce more childcare centre principals.

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 eO’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 Place-and-Train programme by eO. 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
Heartland Heroes

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 byShouldering 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 learned.

"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 Gwendolyn 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 booming, Medics Alex Leong, 15, lost her job when the factory she had worked in for more than a decade closed down.

"I was unemployed and with only an N-level certificate, I was left with no alternative but to attend an interview for eight months, with no success.

Then, after an interview at a job fair, she was selected 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 a trainee job even before the IPD work course was over and now works in property management at Changi Airport, where she supervises the cleanliness of toilets.

The course cost $2,350 but 90% was paid by the Skills Programme for Upgrading and Readiness (SPUR), which is a $200 million scheme to train workers. The employer paid the rest.

"My husband is a waiter and my sister is a cleaner in a hotel. They earn less than $1,500 a month to look after my three grown-up children. There is no way I could have afforded the course without government help."

"Today, she earns a four-figure 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 will be only one of the downturn’s victims.

- The scheme will pay for up to 60% of the course fees and up to 50% of a worker’s salary but this is capped at $1,800 per month.

- 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.
实用的培训课程

当公司派我报名参加总署的就业与职
能培训中心(Real Estate and Construction Centre)专
业维修保养课程时，我心中顿时生出疑
问，难道这头在建筑界的“老牛”，
还能胜任维修保养的工作吗？

在讲台上她语重心长地讲解工作原
则，深深地激起了我们对建筑保
养的热忱。我们对任何危险的事故都
能有效地预防，尽可能减少危险的发
生。

古人有“十年磨一剑”，短短三个星
期的培训课程，其实是讲师帮助学员解
决实际工作中的问题，通过培训与实
践的结合，提高工作效率。