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SINGAPORE: The pioneer cohort in two Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) programmes graduated on Friday (Oct 30), with certificates in Human Resource, as well as Leadership & People Management.

Out of the 60 graduates, 54 were from the Human Resource Graduate Certificate Programme, offered by the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Workforce Development Agency (WDA). It is a course for human resource practitioners, who wanted to expand their skills to be future-ready.

The syllabus consists of six modules, taught through the sharing of ideas among people from different sectors, like government, banking and technological.

Ms Jesslyn Lee, who graduated from the Human Resource Graduate Certificate programme, said: "This sharing of knowledge helps a lot - it broadens my mindset.

"One important thing that I gathered from it is that in the group, there were a lot of young people and they come with very creative ideas on what they think about HR and how companies should be run."

Another graduate Ms Lee Wei Wei, said: "I'm in HR, but I don't have the theory. Having gone through the SMU course, I find it really useful. We shared how we handled certain problems and raised issues.

"The class also chipped in ideas, such as 'We did this in our company', or 'We applied this policy'. I could apply or think about what I can do if I were in that situation."

SMU said the programme has shown that many professionals are interested in lifelong learning. It hopes that the certification could eventually lead to a degree.

Prof Annie Koh, who is also SMU's vice president for Business Development, said: "Our vision is to work from certification to an advanced diploma and have it recognised as a degree programme.

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So, even if you didn't have an undergraduate HR degree, down the road, it'll be great if it gets mapped into a Masters in HR Management."

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