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MY LIFE

Budget debate has 'goodies' for youth

Youngsters can draw lessons from the focus on productivity and its impact, to help prepare them for the workforce

THE focus on productivity in the 2012 Budget is mainly in the improvements to the Enhanced Productivity and Innovation Credit (PIC) scheme, which gives compa-

nies cash incentives when they send staff for training. In short, companies can become more capable in their business processes and at the same time, be rewarded by the Government for doing so.

At face value, this focus on productivity may not mean much to young graduates entering the workforce. This is because we will be, at best, "passive beneficiaries" of the initiatives that may be implemented.

But perhaps we should take it further by asking ourselves: "How

will arming myself with such knowledge empower me in bringing value to my future employers?"

If we present these insights in the form of possible business solutions for employers during job interviews or on the first job, then our value as employees will increase quite significantly.

It speaks to our willingness and ability to be proactive and entrepreneurial instead of waiting for things to happen. It takes a paradigm shift to move from seeing ourselves as mere employees to realising that we, too, have a stake in the business and roles to play.

Knowledge is abundant, but to be willing and able to translate it into real value for ourselves and our stakeholders is perhaps one of the greatest keys to survival and success for young graduates.

Benjamin Loh, 24, is a fourth-year accountancy student at the Singapore Management University.