

## Help the disabled by employing them

Published on Feb 17, 2014

IT IS heartwarming to learn of the recent movement by Bizlink to pay disabled people a basic living wage ("Bizlink to pay disabled workers basic living wage"; Feb 8), and the collaboration between Singapore Management University and the Society for the Physically Disabled to help match disabled students with potential jobs after graduation ("SMU to make life easier for disabled students"; Feb 8).

People with disabilities find it challenging to remain long in the workforce.

Research has shown that people with disabilities have a higher chance of experiencing social exclusion and discrimination that are associated with their disability, a situation known as "disablism".

Things such as early childhood experiences, education, employment, social and cultural capital, and health and well-being are factors that promote social mobility.

Disabled people are disadvantaged in this respect.

Children with disabilities are often bullied in school and are at a higher risk of being placed in special schools. Working-age adults with disabilities are less likely to be employed, and usually command a lower salary.

We can do more for people with disabilities if more organisations are willing to come forward to offer them employment.

Gainful employment would not only enhance their quality of life, but also help them to be socially included.

**Arnold Chua Chee Keong**