

TRAINING FOR F&B, HOSPITALITY SECTORS OFFERED

Skills fair seeks to boost job prospects of the disabled

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SINGAPORE – To help people with disabilities (PWDs) increase their employment prospects, a Skills Training Fair customised to meet their needs was held for the first time yesterday.

Organised by SG Enable, the fair offered talks by industry players on the requirements of different job sectors and provided PWDs with information on various courses that could help them upgrade their skills.

About 150 people attended the fair, which was held at the Lifelong Learning Institute in Paya Lebar.

The event was funded by the Open

Door Programme — a S\$30 million scheme launched in April to support PWDs, who are seeking employment, and employers in hiring and integrating these employees into the workforce.

Ms Ku Geok Boon, CEO of SG Enable, an agency that supports PWDs, emphasised the importance of tailor-made training to meet their needs.

“If you are training someone who has visual impairment, there is some disability etiquette that the trainers need to be aware of,” she said, citing the conversion of materials to braille and using text-to-speech technology as some of the ways.

Participants at yesterday’s fair



Grooming professionals were present at the fair to advise participants how they should dress for different professions.

PHOTO: GENEIEVE TEO

were able to preview and choose from 40 different courses, which range from industry skills training in hospitality and food-and-beverage sectors to foundation skills training, such as English-literacy and computer courses. SG Enable said later that there was a total of 161 sign-ups for the courses at the end of the event.

Career coaches were also present to advise participants on the selection of courses and possible employment opportunities, while grooming professionals were on hand to provide tips on how participants should dress for

different professions.

Mr Rupert Gan, head of government and corporate sector at AGB Education Centre, said feedback from employers had indicated that grooming was an area that needed improvement and, therefore, the centre, as one of the training providers, had decided to work on the issue with participants at the fair.

For Mr Ken Wong, training has played a big part in helping him land his first job with Faith Music Centre.

The 26-year-old, who is visually impaired, is now a music producer and mentors about 10 trainees at the centre. “I think (undergoing training) made me more employable in terms of interview skills and grooming. Without this, I would probably still be sending out resumes and not getting any responses,” Mr Wong added.

Another participant, Mr Lim Kay Choong, believes the fair is a great platform to bridge the gap between employees and employers.

“(Participants) will have a better picture, know what to improve on and look into that area or industry they are interested in,” said the 25-year-old Singapore Management University graduate, who is physically disabled.