

June 2011

"Huat, ah!"

GMP celebrates Chinese New Year a little differently this year



"Huat, ah!" GMPians begin the evening with lo hei

All families have their own customs when celebrating the festivities. For the GMP family, having a lion dance performance in the office every Chinese New Year is tradition.

The lettuce, mandarin oranges and red packet would be carefully arranged together and set on a tray. The reception area would then come alive as the dancers in their costumes gyrate to the powerful beats of the drum and clashing cymbals. Squeals of delight would be heard above the drums and cymbals as GMPians try to catch a lettuce leaf or orange peel the dancing lion heaved out of its mouth. And then, everyone would crowd around the tray to glimpse the Chinese characters laid out and other hidden messages within.

For most years, GMP's Chinese New Year celebrations ended there. But this year was a special year as GMP turned 20. To commemorate GMP's 20th year of shaping destinies, this year's celebrations included a dinner banquet at The Cathay Restaurant.

Like any social office functions, company dinners are always a welcomed respite - and this one is no different. It offered a great opportunity for teams to get together to unwind, colleagues to catch up with one another, and for new hires to be introduced into the fold, while enjoying a delicious meal.



(From left to right) GMPians tucking into dinner; Mr Dennis Liang giving out the red packets over dessert; the GMP Recruitment team posing for a photo while waiting for the following course to be served

The evening kicked off with a short speech from Mr Dennis Liang, chairman of GMP, followed by *lo hei*. The Prosperity Toss, as *lo hei* is also known by, is a customary must-do, must-have for Chinese New Year festivities - a messy but fun affair for many! Turnips, salmon strips, pickled peppers and other assorted *lo hei* ingredients were tossed high in the air as each table expressed their wishes for the Rabbit year.

Dinner itself was a scrumptious affair of eight courses of dishes, all of them symbolising wealth and prosperity. The evening rounded off with a light dessert soup and the much-awaited *ang paws* or red packets which Mr Liang gave out.



GMP wishes everyone a very prosperous year in 2011!