

MAY 2010

Learning about fair employment, Singapore style

GMPians find out more on fair employment practices in a fun and food-filled race

Being in the business of Shaping Destinies, it was important to not only fortify relationships with our colleagues, candidates and clients, but also religiously practice what we, as an organisation, espouse – fair employment. What better way to energise our beliefs than organising an event centred on fair employment; team-building beyond the wallpapered walls of GMP's office. And we did it Singapore style – with food!



GMPians with a 75-year-old service staff from a fast food chain

Fashioned after the famed The Amazing Race, all teams were given clue cards to lead them to each pit stop and were required to complete the tasks found there. These tasks required teams to put together puzzle pieces, find answers to fill in the blanks and approach strangers for help – all in the spirit of learning more about fair employment practices.

In the race, GMPians were exposed to one of Singapore's well-known food chain which actively hires mature workers. And in a bonus task, teams also had to find the most senior worker from any other well-known food chain. Through these activities, it was demonstrated that age was simply a number, and by no means a hindrance to doing a job well. It also drove home the message that mature workers are assets to any organisation as they come with a wealth of experience and are often obliging – especially when it came to helping our teams complete their tasks!

The first pit stop saw all teams pitting their egg-cracking skills against the lone but formidable *uncle* representing Ya Kun Kaya Toast. Each team was tasked to crack all twenty half-boiled eggs with as few broken yolks and shells as possible, and in the shortest time. Many found out later that breaking eggs may be easy, but preserving the firm yolk within required great skill!



The uncle representing Ya Kun gets ready (right)



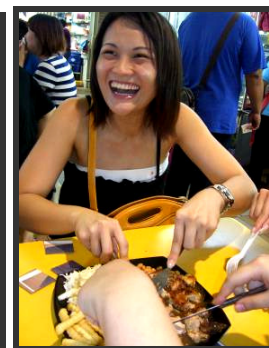
Teams scramble to crack perfect half-boiled eggs, but some with less than perfect results (top, above)

The clue cards given took all teams to other employers which hired on merit – including Wow Wow West and Eighteen Chefs. At Wow Wow West, a food stall located at ABC Brickworks food centre, teams learnt of the stall’s owner firm support of the Yellow Ribbon project, and that his chicken cutlet and chicken chop were two of the best western food dishes they had ever tasted! The teams also caused a slight commotion as other patrons crowded around to watch them piece together puzzles of the food items they were to order.

And at Eighteen Chefs, its owner had a similar conviction of giving people who had fallen behind a second chance in life as well. He spoke to some of our staff on how his food chain came about, and how he aims to help this group of people

back onto their feet. At this pit stop, teams were to order and consume food items that began with F, A, I, R – keeping in line with our fair employment theme. The task also served as a cheeky reminder to GMPians that being frugal was a good habit to cultivate, as the team that spent the least received the most number of points.

The event was a fun way to invigorate our commitment to non-discriminatory hiring practices in our business of Shaping Destinies while strengthening bonds amongst colleagues. While we understand the urgency for the right client-candidate fit in our jobs, it is important that we be exemplary advocates of fair employment. We all learnt that fair employment transcends age, race, religion, language, gender and even one’s past.



A GMPian searching for answers to their close passage on Wow Wow West (left); Piecing together their food puzzle (centre); Enjoying the ‘food’ of their labour (right)



We would like to especially thank all the employers and staff of the establishments we have liaised with for their support and contribution. They have truly made our event a great success.

Credits:

Wow Wow West – 6 Jalan Bukit Merah, ABC Brickworks Food Centre, #01-133 S(150006)

Eighteen Chefs – 302 Tiong Bahru Road, Tiong Bahru Plaza, #02-K1/K6 S(168732)

Ya Kun Kaya Toast – 18 China Street #01-01 Far East Square S(049560)