



New job offers for unemployed PMETs

By: Xieli Lee, Singapore

Singapore - Unemployed professionals can now work as business advisors to SMEs on six-month long projects with the possibility of gaining full time employment if the partnership was successful.

Singapore Management University (SMU) has launched a new Business Advisors Programme where jobless professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) will provide full-time management expertise to SMEs in short term projects. Not only will this provide temporary income for the PMETs, SMEs can utilise the wealth of experience at an affordable price. Part-funded by Spring Singapore, SMEs will only need to pay 30% of the \$5,000 monthly project fee.

However, the fit has to be right for both parties, especially from the SME's perspective. SMU's associate professor Annie Koh, dean of executive and professional education, says it is important that interested PMETs understand and learn to adapt to the SME culture. "The mindset has to change as they were from MNCs or global companies. They need to learn, not get shocked."

Edmund Tsai, director of wine distributor Magnum Wine and Spirits, who is looking for a business advisor who can provide internal services audit, says, "It is really about the attitude." With limited resources available, the last thing he wants is a PMET who does not have the right mindset to add value to his company.

Director of NuVista Technology Vijay Bareja agrees. On the lookout for engineering advisors, Bareja is also thinking about the possibility of taking on the PMET advisor full time after the project ends. However, it depends on the business needs. "In three to six months time, we see the business is sustainable so [it means] the business needs you."

To help PMETs in this mindset change, SMU will provide a two-day induction programme for PMETs successfully matched with SMEs before the attachment starts. Interested professionals must have at least five years' working experience in areas such as finance, technology, engineering and logistics. Other areas include branding, management consultancy, retail, shipping, fast-moving consumer goods and healthcare.

The programme hopes to match PMETs to at least 30 projects by May.

Interested parties can contact the Alliance Centre at Tel: 68280954 / 68280622; ea@smu.edu.sg; or www.smu.edu.sg/usea