SINGAPORE: Over the next week, delegates attending the IMF/World Bank meetings will be constantly meeting one group of people.

300 volunteers from local tertiary institutions are on hand at Suntec Singapore to help them.

Dressed in smart outfits they will get to keep, the students are from the Singapore Management University and Polytechnics.

Working on two shifts, the volunteers had ample training for this job, which itself was already a learning experience.

"We also had to brush up our knowledge on the current attractions in Singapore as well as the facilities we have and I am really surprised at the things that I didn't think Singapore would have," said Siti Mariam Mustaffa, one of the volunteers.

They also help out with other tasks to ensure everything is running smoothly.

"They have gone through fire safety training as well and fire evacuation. In terms of pass exchange, the security is very tight. Not every one is allowed to enter. You must have a valid pass issued by the joint secretariat to able to enter the building," said Esmond Han, Floor Manager, IMF/World Bank Meeting 2006.

The volunteers are paid a nominal fee, but it is the experience that the students will really cherish.
- CNA /dt