

SKILLS UPGRADING

Good news for PMETs

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IT USED to be a sticky situation for those who were retrenched, but wanted to upgrade their skills and still stay in the same industry.

This was because the programmes available to professionals, managerials, executives and technicians (PMETS) were all targeted at job conversion.

But this will change with the introduction of a new umbrella scheme that includes funded skills upgrading programmes for PMETs.

The new Professional Skills Programme (PSP), launched by the Ministry of Manpower and the Workforce Development Agency, combines skills upgrading and conversion programmes to give a sharper focus to the range of measures available to PMETs.

To be brought under the Skills Programme for Upgrading and Resilience (Spur), the scheme comes amid concern that not enough is being done for PMETs, and that those who undergo skills conversion programmes would return to their

former jobs when the economy improves, leading to a waste in training resources.

Acting Minister for Manpower Gan Kim Yong announced details of the scheme at the Singapore Tripartism Forum yesterday.

He said that while some industries will no longer have opportunities – and PMETs in these will have to convert their skills and look elsewhere – there are other companies who want to retain these workers.

These people will need to upgrade their skills to stay relevant, he said.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said: “I know that PMETs sometimes say that the Government always takes care of the low-income and poor.

“(They say) ‘we are not poor but we also need help’. I think that it is right, we should not neglect them.”

Community Development Councils are also currently holding workshops and training for PMETs.

Eighty per cent of PMETs who participated later found jobs, said Mr Lee.

WHAT PSP WILL COVER**a) Skills Upgrading**

- Risk management or product control through the Risk Management Institute (NUS) and Financial Training Institute (SMU)
- Work Skills Qualification (WSQ) Diploma in Tourism
- Specialised Training Programme in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (Validation)

b) Tertiary Upgrading

- Master of Science in Integrated Circuit Design (NTU-Technical University of Munich)
- Double Master of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (NUS-Georgia Institute of Technology)
- Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis (NUS Institute of Systems Science)
- Bachelor of Social Work (SIM University)
- More to be introduced progressively

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