王瑞杰与新加坡管理大学学生进行超过两个小时的对话会，鼓励学生提升能力、适应能力和自信。

陈秋华 报道

大学教育并不单只是一张文凭，意义更在于让学生掌握深层的技能以及正确的价值观。

教育部长王瑞杰昨晚出席新加坡管理大学学生会举办的新春部长论坛时，向在场的300多名学生分享大学教育的看法。

现场不少学生担心随着大学生的增加，大学文凭会贬值，导致影响毕业生的就业前景。对此，王瑞杰解释，增加大学学额不仅不会让大学文凭贬值，还会制造更多就业机会，因为一旦有大量人才，市场才能持续活跃，这也是保障就业率最好的方法。

他也同学生分享一名外国公司总裁对本地劳动队伍的看法。

当问到公司有意提拔他并调他到另一岗位时，一名本地员工的第一个反应居然是：“我要是失手了怎么办？我还能否回到现在的工作岗位？”

王瑞杰说：“这名总裁很惊讶，新加坡人怎么没有信心？”

为此，他认为大学生更应该关心的是如何提升能力、适应能力和自信。

王瑞杰也承诺政府会确保每所大学的专长都能不相同，让各所大学生毕业后都能有一定的竞争力。

这是王瑞杰出任教育部长以来，第一次与大学生交流。在超过两个小时的对话会中，学生向部长提出有关教育、社会和政治问题。不过，王瑞杰一改一般部长论坛一问一答的形式，要求每个学生在提问前先说出自己的自愿。

在了解学生的自愿后，他表示希望学生在个人志愿中能包含一个更大的志愿，就是共同打造新加坡成为一个具包容性的和谐社会。

他说：“当然每个人要如何回馈社会是个人的选择，但是因为新加坡是个小国，很多时候个人的成功与新加坡的成功息息相关。”

过去30年，世界发生的巨大变化如亚洲金融风暴和沙斯疫情对我国有显著的影响，他提醒学生新加坡是个小国，深受国际变动的影响，未来也一样。因此，学生在立志志愿时，也应该放眼国际，考虑到可能影响他们的全球因素，重新调整他们的要求。

谈到新加坡要如何继续在全球大环境中保持竞争力，王瑞杰认为关键在于打造一支具实力的工作队伍，同时借助外来人才与全世界接轨，并把自己定位为亚洲枢纽，因为亚洲将会对全世界起到更重要作用。

不过，他强调所谓的亚洲枢纽，并不单指增加硬体设施，更重要的是观念上的改变。

Scroll down for translation
A university education is not just a paper qualification. More importantly, its purpose lies in equipping students with ‘deep skills’ and correct values.

Minister for Education Heng See Keat said this last night at a dialogue organised by the Singapore Management University (SMU) Apolitical, where he shared his views on the university education with an audience of more than 300 students.

Many of the students present were worried that the increase of university places would devalue their degree and hurt their future employment prospects. Minister Heng explained that increasing the number of university places will not reduce the value of university degrees, but will in fact create more employment opportunities, as the market needs a deep pool of talent in order to stay vibrant. It is also the best way to safeguard a healthy employment rate.

He also shared with students the perception of a foreign chief executive on the local workforce.

When a local staff was told by the company that it intended to promote and transfer him to another posting, his first reaction was, “What would happen if I fail? Would I be able to return to my current position?”

Minister Heng said, ”The chief executive was very surprised. Why are Singaporeans so lacking in confidence?”

To this, Minister Heng said that university students should be concerned about how to enhance their drive, adaptability and confidence instead.

He also pledged to ensure that each university will have a different specialisation, so as to ensure that graduates retain a degree of competitiveness in the job market.

This was Minister Heng’s first dialogue session with SMU students since his appointment as the Education Minister. During the dialogue, which lasted more than two hours, students posed a variety of questions on education, social issues and politics. In a departure from the usual question-and-answer format, Mr Heng asked each student to preface questions by sharing his or her aspirations.

After understanding the students’ aspirations, Minister Heng said that he hoped they would incorporate within their own personal ambition, the greater goal of building a more inclusive and harmonious Singapore society.

“While it is up to the individual how he or she contributes back to the society, Singapore is ultimately a small country, and our personal successes are, at many times, closely connected to the nation’s success,” he said.

With global events over the last three decades, such as the Asian financial crisis and SARS outbreak, all having a significant impact on Singapore, Minister Heng also reminded students that Singapore is a small country easily affected by international turbulence, and will continue to be so in the future. As such, students should take into consideration global developments that could affect them, when setting and adjusting their personal goals and ambitions.

Speaking on how Singapore can continue to stay competitive in the global economy, Minister Heng said that the key lies in developing a strong and competent workforce, while connecting to the rest of the world with the help of foreign talents. Singapore should also position itself as an Asian hub, as this region will be of great influence to the world.

However, Mr Heng stressed that an Asian hub comprises more than just enhancing infrastructure and facilities. More importantly, a change in mentality is necessary.