Shaping policies to benefit Sporeans

At WDA, Mr Foong Tai Wei finds a career that is more about purpose than profit

Young officers in WDA are often given great responsibilities, so we have to be willing to learn on the job, be open-minded, adaptable and nimble," says the individual learning portfolio manager.

Mr Foong - who holds a Bachelor of Social Science with a primary major in political science and a secondary major in organisational behaviour and human resources - enjoys the fast-paced work environment at WDA, taking on every task he is given with gusto.

"At WDA, Mr Foong was given a role that he could use his skills and knowledge to make a difference," says a colleague.

Mr Foong says: "When the full-time national servicemen complete their national service, they will be certified with commercially recognised skill sets, easing their transition into a civilian career," he explains.

The project was adopted by SAF and garnered the interest of other defence agencies such as the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

 Winning idea
In 2012, he championed the idea of approaching the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to align the training of soldiers with industry-recognised standards.

"When the full-time national servicemen complete their national service, they will be certified with commercially recognised skill sets, easing their transition into a civilian career," he explains.

The project was adopted by SAF and garnered the interest of other defence agencies such as the Singapore Civil Defence Force.

For his winning idea, Mr Foong was awarded the WDA Cool Innovation Award.

As part of WDA’s talent development programme, he was also recently awarded the WDA Educational Award to pursue his postgraduate studies. He hopes to study something related to transformational leadership.

Mr Foong also hopes to specialise in industrial engagement, working with stakeholders such as employers, training organisations, other government agencies and unions to drive WDA’s mission.

"It is a great feeling to work in an organisation that is nurturing. I am most appreciative of the many development opportunities that WDA has given me," he adds.