

News Release

First of its Kind Training in Building & Facilities Services for PWIDs



Singapore, 16 July 2018 - Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN), a social service organisation, embarks on a first of its kind Building & Facilities Services training for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PWIDs), with Aegis Building and Engineering Pte Ltd.

This Building & Facilities Services programme is the newest course offered at APSN Centre for Adults (CFA), for trainees aged 17 and above. Conducted by both Aegis in-house trainer with relevant expertise, and experienced APSN Instructors who cater to the learning needs of the beneficiaries, this alliance prepares PWIDs with the necessary skills to seek future employment.

After completing the nine-month pilot course in 2019, successful trainees would be offered gainful, full-time employment with Aegis, a local building and engineering firm.

The first pilot course has commenced since 2 July 2018, and 10 trainees were selected after an initial assessment of their aptitude and interest in Building and Facilities Services. Similar to trainees in APSN CFA's Enterprise Programmes, the 10 trainees are paid an allowance for the first three months under the programme.

One of the trainees selected for this programme is Ng Yi Feng. Previously from the Bakery Enterprise, the 27-year-old since made the decision to switch to Building & Facilities Services instead. He said, "I have interest in painting, so I want to get an actual job in which I can paint."



association for persons with special needs



Painting is one of the skills taught within the programme curriculum, and Yi Feng hopes to be able to put these skills to good use by decorating his own living space with a design and theme.

Following the initial training phase, they undergo a six-month apprenticeship with hotel partners such as JW Marriott Hotel Singapore South Beach, Shangri-La Hotel Singapore and Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa. With their new skillsets, trainees start to earn an income of \$1,100 (with Central Provident Fund contribution), and continue to be supported by APSN CFA Instructors and Job Coaches.

This model in providing structured training for persons with special needs is a way to plug the labour shortage in this sector. Aegis Managing Director, Mr Yeong Wai Teck said, "We believe that the skills acquired by PWDs will be useful for their future employment, which also benefits the local industry. We intend to make this project sustainable over a long period, and in time to come, duplicate this model overseas by transferring the know-how to PWDs there."

APSN Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christopher Tay said, "We are grateful for this joint partnership with Aegis, which has proven how injecting industrial expertise and employment prospects are key to empowering persons with special needs to lead full and independent lives. APSN will continue to usher in such opportunities for our trainees, in new areas, to increase the relevance of their skill set."



A mock up hotel room in APSN CFA for trainees to practice skills such as painting, application of silicone and grouting, sponsored by Aegis.

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Donations to this Association are eligible for tax deduction under Section 37(3) of the Income Tax Act



APSN Instructor, Mr Francis Lim teaching trainee Ng Yi Feng to load a silicone gun.



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About Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN)

Established in 1976, Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) is a social service organisation providing special education for persons with mild intellectual disability (IQ 50-70). Today, APSN operates four Special Education (SPED) Schools (APSN Chaoyang School, APSN Katong School, APSN Tanglin School and APSN Delta Senior School) for students aged 7 to 21, an APSN Student Care Centre for children aged 7 to 18 and an APSN Centre for Adults for persons aged 17 and older, benefiting over 1,200 beneficiaries each year.

The APSN Schools and Centre adopt a holistic approach in its curriculum, comprising academic, vocational and social skills which are important for open employment and lifelong learning. APSN seeks to enable persons with special needs to be active contributors of the society and is committed to inspire and build capabilities of its partners and community to lead and advocate an inclusive society.

To date, APSN's growing database has more than 5,000 alumni members. The Association is constantly expanding its network to reach out to and understand the needs of its members to better support them.

For more information on APSN, please visit www.apsn.org.sg.

About Aegis Building and Engineering Pte Ltd

Aegis Building & Engineering Pte Ltd was established in 2002. Over the years, a relentless pursuit of excellence in the perseverance, preventive maintenance and refurbishment of buildings has earned us unrivalled reputation in the industry and made us a clear leader in the field.

Our success is largely due to our strong belief in an integrated system of our people, processes and systems. To date, we have attained operational efficiency and effectiveness by integrating our Quality Management (ISO 9001), Safety Management (ISO 18001) and Environmental Management (ISO 14001) systems into our operations. To ensure continuous service and operation, we achieved the ISO 22301 Business Continuity Management certification. We have also attained the Singapore Quality Class accolade for establishing certified human resource and training management processes. We also have Customer Relationship Management (CRM) procedures which are well supported by a robust CRM system.

We believe that training is instrumental in enhancing productivity and efficiency at work, thus we spare no effort to invest in training for our staff. We have one of the highest ratio of core trade certified workforce in the industry to deliver quality outcomes to our customers and stakeholders. Furthermore, we are recognised as a certified On-The-Job training centre by ITE, and have received Organisation Accreditation by WSQ

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