Businesses keen to further ties with SIT, UniSIM

By MALMINDERJIT SINGH

BUSINESSES here are keen to deepen their partnership with Singapore's two newly established universities, as they look for industry sponsorship and partnerships to enhance the relevance of the education system. Through the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and the Singapore University of Applied Sciences (UniSIM), they want to tap into a new pool of talent.

Mr Foo said Sakae's first scholar will join the company upon completion of their SIT programme. ”Win-win: We will definitely take their grades and see how the company helps them and understand their needs,” he said.

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F&B group Sakae Holdings, helmed by CEO Douglas Foo, spends $30,000-$40,000 on each scholar for the programme at SIT and in return bonds the scholar to the company for three years under its Management Associate programme. Mr Foo said the company’s scholars at SIT, most of whom are taking a degree in hospitality studies, will be encouraged to spend 30 per cent of their vacations at the company during their studies. They will be given the opportunity to work with SIT on co-op programmes.

By the time they graduate, those scholars are way ahead because their research and case studies at the company help them learn and understand in-depth the hospitality sector,” Mr Foo said. Sakae Holdings spent $30,000-$40,000 on each scholar for the programme at SIT and in return bonded the scholar to the company for three years under its Management Associate programme.

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"We need talent that will create a pool of talent for our industry. Industry sponsorship and partnerships help us connect with tertiary institutions like UniSIM for relevant courses,” said CGH's human resources director, Lilian Chew.

Similarly, Olivia Tay, senior executive director of human resources and training, the Co-op programme will provide a business environment for students to train and apply what they learn. RWS, through a further Education Scholarship scheme, continues to look for good institutions to explore possibilities with, she said.

Mr Foo also said that the company’s scholars at SIT will be encouraged to spend 30 per cent of their vacations at the company during their studies. They will be given the opportunity to work with SIT on co-op programmes.

"Sales is an important part of the co-op programme. We need talent that will create a pool of talent for our industry. Industry sponsorship and partnerships help us connect with tertiary institutions like UniSIM for relevant courses," said Olivia Tay, senior executive director of human resources and training, the Raffles Medical Group (RWS), too, is in favour of a Co-op programme and is looking to explore possibilities with UniSIM.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with SIT on specific courses that would benefit the students and the company," she said.

All three healthcare providers have indicated support for SIT’s planned Co-op programme and are looking at their partnership with UniSIM.

"Having a local institution like SIT make such degrees will benefit CGH and the healthcare sector. We will create a pool of talent for the entire industry as a whole,” said Mr Foo.

We have observed that when academia is coupled with practical work experience, students instill a real-world perspective. We are also open to working with other overseas institutions like UniSIM for relevant courses," said Olivia Tay.

"Students who graduate from CGH will have a better understanding of the healthcare sector,” she added.