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Facebook[Home >](#)**SINGAPORE NEWS**[E-mail](#) [Print](#) [A-](#) [A+](#)**New initiative encourages firms to hire at least one ex-offender**

By Satish Cheney, Channel NewsAsia | Posted: 20 August 2009 2237 hrs

SINGAPORE: The aim of a new initiative, mooted by the Industrial and Services Co-operative Society and the Singapore Business Federation, is to get companies to hire at least one ex-offender to give him or her a chance at a new lease of life.

Called "Corporate Doors", it was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng on Thursday.

Mr Wong said the recidivism rate of prisoners is going down – in 1988, 44 per cent of ex-convicts landed in jail again, but by 2006, the figure was down to 25 per cent.

Besides a strong after-care network, the deputy prime minister said the improvement can be attributed to prison officers who act as rehab officers, as well as the many volunteers who provide social and religious counselling.

Since its official launch in 2004, the Yellow Ribbon Project has been successful in raising public awareness about the difficulties and challenges of ex-offenders and their families.

The Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) has more than 1,700 employers willing to employ ex-offenders.

More than 50 companies have already signed up for the Corporate Doors initiative, meaning they would be employing at least one ex-offender in their company.

With the Singapore Business Federation having some 15,000 members, there could be even more opportunities for ex-offenders to land a job.

Dawn Kong, director, FB Franchise Organisation, said: "Those who have stuck with the programme have successfully taken that second leap in life. They have integrated into society through work, employment and business."

Winston Sim, CEO, TCC Hospitality Resources, said: "Because we're in the hospitality industry, some of our clients did have some concerns. But with proper training and guidance, we've proved that some of them are, in fact, doing better than our regular staff."

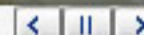
At the event on Thursday, some S\$300,000 was also raised to fund the Gift of Hope package, which provides prisoners with a S\$50 voucher to aid their return to society. The money will also be used to re-skill ex-offenders.

- CNA/so



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Aug 20, 2009

Drive to hire ex-inmates

By Teh Joo Lin

AN INITIATIVE was launched on Thursday night to get firms here to hire at least one ex-convict to help re-integrate former offenders into society.

The drive, called Corporate Doors, was announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng at the 20th anniversary of the Industrial and Services Cooperative Society (ISCOS).

Under this scheme, ISCOS has teamed up with the Singapore Business Federation, which represents more than 15,000 companies here.

So far, more than 50 companies have signed up.

Said Mr Wong: 'I urge more corporate organisations to support this initiative as providing stable employment will help ex-offenders re-integrate into the community and be self-sufficient.'

He added that hiring former inmates within a supportive community has helped cut the recidivism rate of prisoners over the years.

About 44 per cent of the prisoners released in 1998 went back to jail within two years of their release. For those released in 2006, the relapse rate was about 25 per cent.

Mr Wong attributed this 'positive outcome' to a focus on rehabilitation behind prison walls, the help of volunteers and a strong aftercare network that provides job referrals, among others.

Aftercare organisations such as ISCOS, which was set up in 1989 to help re-integrate former inmates into society, It has helped more than 9,000 former inmates so far.

At Thursday's dinner event, companies that have been providing job opportunities to former inmates were honoured. They include The Underwater World, TCC Hospitality Group and SBS Transit.

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助前罪犯重返职场 两机构推出“求职之门”

(2009-08-21)

• 陈锦柏

为了使前罪犯尽快融入社会, 工业与服务合作社协会与新加坡工商联合总会联手推展“求职之门”(Corporate Doors)计划, 协助前罪犯掌握技术, 重返职场, 开启人生新篇章。

副总理兼内政部长黄根成昨晚在“工业与服务合作社协会”(ISCOS)成立20周年庆祝晚宴上透露这个消息。他也为“求职之门”主持推介仪式。

在该计划下, 上述两个组织联手协助前罪犯融入社会及投入职场, 属下超过1万5000家企业将尽可能聘用至少一名前罪犯, 估计有上万多名获释的前囚犯可从中受惠。

早报导读



智慧的医疗



为减少上访喊冤 中国要责任倒查信访案

国家信访局局长王学军说, 将对那些应在基层解决而未得到解决的典型信访案例进行“倒查”。

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黄根成也说, 这些年来, 监狱部门、企业机构及社会大众, 同心协力为前罪犯提供“第二次机会”, 使他们重新找到人生的新方向。“求职之门”设立的目的, 也是希望把协助前罪犯的信息传达到本地工商社区, 目前已有50家公司签下承诺书, 愿意雇用前罪犯, 帮助他们走向人生的“第二次机会”。

资料显示, 我国前囚犯再犯罪的比率, 从1998年的44.4%, 下降至2006年的25%。重犯率是指囚犯出狱后两年内没有再度涉及罪案的百分比。

黄根成说, 重犯率下降的原因是监狱部门的监狱官扮演了双重角色, 他们除了关押囚犯, 也协助辅导及改造他们。他透露, 目前约有1400名志愿人士定期到监狱, 奉献他们的宝贵时间与专业知识, 引领囚犯在获释后走向新的人生。

丹戎巴葛集选区议员英兰妮也在晚宴上把一张志银5万元的支票, 交给工业与服务合作社协会主席林殷。这笔义款是该集选区热心人士的捐献。

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