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Title: SMS service helps NTU graduating students keep tabs on job openings
Date: 4th February 2009
URL: [http://yes933.sg:80/portal/site/938Live/ menuitem.772b6c230fcad6770c5e4a10618000a0/?vgnextoid=44c0633e3b04f110VgnVCM1000001f0aa8c0RCRD&vgnextfmt=printer&mcParam=18d2638896593110VgnVCM100000e101000aRCRD](http://yes933.sg:80/portal/site/938Live/menuitem.772b6c230fcad6770c5e4a10618000a0/?vgnextoid=44c0633e3b04f110VgnVCM1000001f0aa8c0RCRD&vgnextfmt=printer&mcParam=18d2638896593110VgnVCM100000e101000aRCRD)

Tertiary students will have to cast their nets wider to improve their chances of finding work at a time when the current job market appears grim.

At the start of a two-day annual Career Fair, Senior at the Nanyang Technological University, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development Youth and Sports Teo Ser Luck called on this group to be realistic in their expectations.

"Graduates that are graduating this year or even next year must prepare themselves, especially those this year. They have to prepare themselves that positions are not available unlike last time, quite a number may not even get a position before they graduate. It used to be that when you come to NTU or NUS, in some of the faculties you can get a job before you graduate."

So to help graduating students keep tabs of the latest job openings, NTU introduced a free SMS alert service since January.

For a start, three companies have signed up to tap on fresh talent through this service.

NTU's Loh Pui Wah elaborates.

"Many of the graduating students some of them do not have access to the internet. so they may be slowed as far as responding. But most of them would have a mobile phone. So for us to (email) blast the job opportunities to them or the job site or into their mailbox that makes it more efficient and quicker for them to respond to that."

Besides the SMS system, NTU is also thinking of implementing a resume depository system so as to cut down outdated resumes.

Mr Loh, who's a Director of the school's Career and Attachment Office adds that even its MBA students will have to be flexible and consider openings with SMEs, and not just MNCs.

"Our MBA students have got a broad-based rather than just simply business and finance. Some of them major in HR, major in marketing. These are the skills that the other industries such as the SMEs may want. That's what we talk about resilient. When one sector is down, we are encouraging them to go to the SMEs so that their business training, their administrative training can be put to use. "