



Inmates who are interested to learn the ins and outs of the kitchen can volunteer for training in a programme that started in 2003. They are later shortlisted and put through courses on culinary skills. ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM

Culinary courses for inmates

CULINARY skills and cooked meals will be on the plate for inmates when Changi Prison's new cluster of blocks becomes operational at the end of September.

This extension to the training programme, currently involving about 100 inmates annually, continues what began in 2003 at the current Cluster A blocks, housing more than 5,000 inmates.

Cluster A's central kitchen facility dishes out about 8,000 meals daily, cooked by and for inmates at Changi, neighbouring Changi Women's Prison and Tanah Merah Prison.

NTUC Foodfare and the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (Score), which runs the programme, signed an

agreement to continue the initiative yesterday.

The chairman of Score, Mr Kong Mun Kwong, said: "The range of jobs in the food industry is the widest when compared to any other industry. Workers do not require a PhD or masters to become a No. 1 chef."

Inmates who are interested to learn the ins and outs of the kitchen can volunteer for training. They are later shortlisted and put through courses such as Basic Food Hygiene, Good Manufacturing Practice and F&B Service Training.

A six-month course is also offered so the inmates can attain an Industrial Skills Certificate in Food Preparation from the Insti-

tute of Technical Education.

A donation cheque for \$100,000 was also presented to Score by NTUC yesterday. The money will go towards providing higher learning culinary courses for inmates who show a flair for the culinary arts.

NTUC Foodfare chief executive Perry Ong said: "The inmates we are training are not only preparing food for inmates but are learning to prepare food of commercial standards."

Last year, 204 inmates who were released found jobs with 254 F&B employers within Score's network of 1,800 employers. The figure until May this year stands at 88.

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