

# Job fair comes to the neighbourhood

*CDAC organises first in Paya Lebar, with more to follow in other areas next year*

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**SINGAPORE** – Some 1,200 jobs were available at the Chinese Development Assistance Council's (CDAC) first Jobs in the Neighbourhood event yesterday, aimed at bringing opportunities for job-seekers — especially seniors and women — closer to home.

Rain, however, put a dampener on the event at an open space along Paya Lebar Road, which saw a turnout of 400 consisting largely of elderly residents in the vicinity.

Organisers said 10 per cent of the 230 applicants were offered jobs on the spot. Most of the jobs were from the retail and food and beverage sectors, within the vicinity of Tai Seng/Paya Lebar, MacPherson, Ubi, Kaki Bukit and Kallang industrial estates.

By taking jobs near their homes, workers can save on transport costs and travelling time, the CDAC said.

Speaking to reporters, Acting Manpower Minister Tan Chuan-Jin, who is also Member of Parliament for Marine Parade GRC, said that “by bringing job fairs to the neighbourhood, (it) makes it easier for the residents who are looking for jobs to come out in a convenient location”.

Jumbo Group of Restaurants' Senior Director for Corporate Affairs Christina Kong said there were over 20 applicants for the company's 190 job vacancies, which ranged from dishwashers to cashiers.

At least 10 were hired on the spot. “I think the crowd would have been better, if the weather were not that bad”, she said.

One successful job applicant was Mr Wong Choon Chong, 63.

The former factory technician, who was retrenched two years ago, was offered a job as a kitchen helper at Jumbo Restaurant at VivoCity. Although not located near his home at Pipit Road, Mr Wong said he was willing to travel by bus and train to work.

The CDAC will be holding similar job fairs in the West, North and Central regions in March, July and November next year, respectively.