

Teens get taste of life as top chef

by sara grosse

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SINGAPORE - They are youths from low-income families but thanks to a culinary apprenticeship programme at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), the 30 teenagers got to spend a few days under the tutelage of professional chefs, learning to prepare dishes like ravioli and cannoli stuffed with chicken satay and spinach.

The three-day apprenticeship at Mayflower Secondary is part of an inaugural programme by the RWS for youth who come from families with household incomes below \$1,500.

Said RWS executive chef (food & beverage culinary) Edmund Toh: "Most of the Singaporeans or the young generation, they cannot take the heat. They prefer to work in air-con room, probably at the computer. So this probably the first time they have been feeling the heat, which can be a challenge to them."

Becoming a top chef takes commitment, willingness and, most of all, passion, he added.

The students were selected for the programme by youth charity Heartware Network, as they showed potential. Some of them will be hand-picked for a two-week mentorship programme, where they will learn F&B and hospitality skills (Corrected at 7:00 PM Jun 30, 2011).

Mayflower Secondary student Merlissa Lim, 15, said she has wanted to be a cook since she was five years old.

"I watch lots of food programmes on TV and pick up useful tips on how to cook," she said.

Ernest Oo, a student from Swiss Cottage Secondary School, said: "I am learning how to make more high-class dishes. And I am following all the safety precautions that I'm really quite lazy about and do not bother to follow, at home."

Besides the culinary track, the RWS apprenticeship programmes also include retail and entertainment studies. SARA GROSSE



Participants of the aRWSome Apprenticeship tasting the ravioli they cooked under the supervision of chefs from the Resorts World Sentosa Culinary Team. Photo by Syafiqah Hamid



RWS executive chef Edmund Toh (right) assisting participants as they learn to cook. Photo by Syafiqah Hamid

For those not familiar with the show, entrepreneurs and inventors pitch their business ideas to a successful panel of wealthy investors. If the investors, or Dragons, think that a business idea has the capacity to make money, they invest their own money to buy a share of the business. Bartosz, who owns a company producing unique edible salty sticks, or Beer Fingers, came away from an intense debate in the den with an investment of £100,000. Bartosz also received a bank



Above: Fundación Impulsar's CEO Eleonora Noble, President Jorge Filoli and the British Ambassador Shan Morgan (centre)

guarantee for circa €250,000, which will enable him to invest in the production of the salty sticks on a larger scale and enter overseas markets. As anyone who has seen Dragon's Den will know this is quite an achievement, well done Bartosz!

Ambassador hosts wedding day lunch for Fundación Impulsar in Argentina

As part of their celebration of the recent Royal Wedding between Prince William and Catherine Middleton, Ambassador Shan Morgan and The British Embassy in Buenos Aires hosted a benefit lunch for Argentine YBI member Fundación Impulsar.

The event recognised Fundación Impulsar's recent achievement of supporting its 1000th young entrepreneur through their extensive network of seven regional offices. To mark its achievement, President of YBI and father of the groom HRH The

Prince of Wales sent a congratulatory letter to Fundación Impulsar President Jorge Filoli Casas, which was read out by the Ambassador to all present.

The funds raised will be used to support Fundación Impulsar's programmes and to ensure it can keep continue giving young people the opportunity to start their own businesses and realise their potential.



Above: Guests enjoy lunch in the grand surroundings of the Ambassador's residence in Buenos Aires



Above: As part of her internship, Jillian was invited to attend a gala fundraising dinner in Singapore

International YBI Internship - From Scotland to Singapore

YBI is a truly global network, and our members are connected in many different ways. One such connection is the through the exchange of staff and volunteers between YBI members. Here Jillian Shields recounts her experience of a two week internship with Youth Business Singapore, arranged by her mentor and Director of Marketing and Communications, with the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Margaret Gibson.

"Margaret and my previous employer Sandra Ewen, of the Determined to Succeed team in the Scottish Government, had met Raymond Huang of Youth Business Singapore, during his travels to Scotland and Mexico.

I wished to gain some experience of working internationally and to go to a country I had no previous experience of. Raymond had been very interested in Determined to Succeed (Scotland's strategy for enterprise in education) on previous visits to Scotland and felt that something similar could be implemented in Singapore. He kindly agreed to host me for the 2 weeks.

There is a wider governmental focus in Singapore to develop the entrepreneurial spirit and to engage young people in business. All secondary schools can access up to \$10,000 of grant funding to put in place a structured entrepreneurship programme for their students.

My task was to develop a 3-day curriculum for 15-16 year-old students to educate them about business, to develop in them an innovative mindset and entrepreneurial spirit and to come up with a 'big idea'. I used my own knowledge and experience, and built on the thinking that had been done here to develop the curriculum."

The pilot will be run with 40 students in August 2011 and will then be rolled out more widely. I have gained so much from the internship; I have learned about Singaporean culture, how the workplace operates, about the charity sector and the challenges it faces and the incredible opportunities available."