



CAREERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Promoting fun through sports

Ms Tan Jun Yi organises sports events for the community at the People's Association

by janice goh

ORGANISING community sporting events over the past five years has given Ms Tan Jun Yi, 27, the chance to interact with people from all walks of life.

Ms Tan heads the community sports division at the People's Association (PA).

The former school team athletics member says: "PA has offered me a unique working experience as I serve as the catalyst to bring people of different ages, races and social backgrounds together and foster friendship and bonding through sports, which is more often associated with competitions and excellence.

"Working in PA has made me more vocal and open as I interact with people from all walks of life, from businessmen to housewives and students."

The challenges she has encountered have also trained her to think out of the box to come up with viable solutions and innovative ways to provide quality community sports programmes within the allocated resources, she adds.

Her most memorable programme was the 2010 inaugural nationwide walking event, One Community Walk, which involved flagging off mass walks on the same day and at the same time in each of the 84 constituencies then.

She recalls: "It was very challenging because it involved coordination on a massive scale and we had never done anything similar."

As part of the working committee, she was in charge of planning the whole event, including gathering resources, such as medical support, and distributing them to the Community Sports Clubs (CSCs) on the ground.

She and her teammates hit a snag when they learnt that no medical service provider had 84 ambulances in its fleet.

To overcome this problem, they eventually procured the services of 15 ambulances which were stationed at the Group Representation Constituency (GRC) level instead.

Varied experiences

A statutory board established to promote racial harmony and social cohesion in Singapore, PA initiates and offers a wide range of programmes and services to cater to the needs and interests of Singaporeans from all walks of life.

It achieves this through its network of 1,800 grass-roots organisations (GROs), five community development councils, the National Youth Council, National Commu-



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— Ms Tan Jun Yi (left), who heads the community sports division at the People's Association

nity Leadership Institute, Outward Bound Singapore and Water-Venture.

The community sports division works towards connecting the community through sports and has two sections under its wing — the community sports (CS) section and the water-venture (WV) section.

Ms Tan heads the CS section, which organises programmes and events at the national level and works closely with the CSCs and GROs to offer sporting activities at the zonal, divisional, GRC and district levels.

Besides planning the major community sports events, she also manages their publicity and branding.

She says: "My job provides me with a different experience every day as I get to explore different parts of Singapore and meet different people. This fits very well with my personality as I cannot be bound to a desk and a computer for a whole day."

Steady progression

Fresh out of university in 2007, she joined PA as an assistant manager.

Having always been active in athletics in school, she was drawn to the job as it involves sports, meeting people and events management.

After two years, she was promoted to be a manager.

In recognition of her "consistently good performance and contributions", she moved up another rung to her current position last year.

Says Ms Tan: "This leadership post allows me to lead a small team and work with many like-minded volunteers to meet the outcomes of promoting sports to the community."

Apart from the promotions, the numerous learning opportunities she has enjoyed beyond her job scope have encouraged her to stay in this job.

These have included being nominated to sit in related sporting committees at the national level and participate in The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme in 2010, which brings together more than 300 youth from Asean countries and Japan on board a ship for over 40 days.