

LIFESAVING TRAINING INCENTIVE PROGRAMME



The Home Affairs Department (HAD) launched the first Lifesaving Training Incentive Programme in 2018 to support non-ethnic Chinese (NEC) youths to acquire the skills and qualifications to become professional lifeguards, so as to open up their career choices. 18 participants successfully obtained the Lifesaving Bronze Medallion under this Programme in 2018.

Continuing the success of 2018, the HAD organised two courses in 2019, one for NEC youths who obtained the Lifesaving Bronze Medallion in 2018 to continue their journey of achieving the lifeguard qualification and the other one designed for NEC youths to receive trainings from zero towards the lifeguard qualification.



The courses attracted a total of 34 participants to join the intensive trainings from July to October 2019. 18 participants successfully passed the relevant examinations and obtained the Pool Lifeguard Award, 2 participants successfully acquired the First Aid Certificate, and 1 participant attained the Lifesaving Bronze Medallion. They came from different ethnicities, including Pakistani, Filipino, Nepalese, Indian and Korean.



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The positive attitude and dedication of the participants are highly appreciated by the HAD. Mr Mohammad Usman, 17, said that the training process was very tough that he had thought of giving up. He was motivated by the support and encouragement from the instructors and other participants to get the trainings completed and acquire the lifeguard qualification. Mr Ahtsham Hafiz, 23, who is currently working as a part-time lifeguard, said that even if he eventually does not pursue a career as a lifeguard, he would still be able to put what he has learnt to full use in daily life and help the people in need.



Two other participants, Miss Song Yeeun and Miss Rai Manika, became assistant swimming instructors following completion of the Programme. Both participants believed that taking part in the Programme and accomplishing the lifeguard qualification brought them a great sense of achievement.



On 9 January 2020, an Award Presentation Ceremony was held to celebrate the outstanding achievement of the participants. Nine of the participants who obtained the Pool Lifeguard Award have applied for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department's seasonal lifeguard posts. The HAD wishes them success in the attempt.

The HAD would continue to organise the Programme, to support more NEC youths in getting the lifeguard qualification so as to realise their potential, and contribute to society with their knowledge and skills in the future.