

# Book A Class 4 Ticket To Wheels Of Fortune



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It was one strategy to source for job vacancies and then train jobseekers to fill this demand. NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute) did not hesitate to reverse this strategy to help Singaporeans land in good jobs as Class 4 drivers in various industries like tourism and construction.

It has embarked on a new programme to train up 62 jobseekers to drive heavy vehicles and take up jobs in high demand such as driving tour buses, chartered buses, school buses, delivery vans and trucks.

"I already have some experience handling heavy vehicles. It helps that I enjoy driving and am very eager to build up a career with this skill. So, when I heard of this opportunity to be trained at e2i, I knew I could not let it go, especially when there is a demand in this field," said Mr Roger Ang, 26, a composite technician.

Mr Ang was one of 30 jobseekers offered a job at the "Skills-Match" event held at e2i on 25 January 2010. He will join SUN-GEE Travel Private Limited after completing his training programme and passing his practical driving test in mid-February this year.

SUN-GEE Travel, together with BNL Services Private Limited, Kiat Lee Landscape and Building Private Limited, Min Yang Trading and Transport Services Private Limited and ComfortDelGro Bus Private Limited were five



More Than Class 4... Some companies are also offering opportunities for employees to be trained with crane operation skills for a better income.

employers who were invited to hire shortlisted candidates at the event.

e2i had earlier selected jobseekers who are willing to work rotating shifts, able to speak and understand basic English, possess a Class 3 driving license for at least 12 months and are at least 21 years old. These screened candidates are sponsored by e2i to attend a six-week training programme which includes Class 4 driving lessons and a Workforce Skills Qualifications Workplace Safety and Health course.

Said Mr Michael Soh, Director of Kiat Lee Landscape and Building Private Limited: "This initiative by e2i is very helpful to us as we get

to select candidates who already have the right mindset and attitude to work in our sector. We have five vacancies. On top of their Class 4 driving skills, we will also train them to operate cranes to carry out more duties like pruning of trees. As they move on to supervisory roles, they will be able to earn more than \$2,000 per month."

Candidates can expect a pay packet of \$1,300 after the training programme at e2i. e2i will also be conducting regular Class 4 Driving industry previews in the subsequent months. Companies and jobseekers who are interested to find out more can call e2i's hotline at 64740606 from 9 am to 6 pm on weekdays.



Taking Charge Of The Wheel... Trainees at NTUC's e2i are also equipped with knowledge on workplace safety in the course of the programme.

**“ Drivers of heavy vehicles are in great demand. Apart from tour bus or public transport companies, the jobs are scattered in small numbers across thousands of companies. Our usual method of approaching employers first to source vacancies and then find workers to fill them will therefore not work. Instead, we are approaching interested jobseekers first, train them to be Class 4 drivers, and thereafter ask employers to come forward and hire them. Like literacy, teamwork and workplace safety, Class 4 driving is an essential skill that would make a worker readily employable and help raise the productivity of companies at the same time.”**

Gary Goh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NTUC's e2i (Employment and Employability Institute)