



ROUND-UP

Registrations open for NHI's diploma in hotel management programme

MUSCAT: In a bid to empower the youth of Oman, National Hospitality Institute (NHI) is offering a two-year diploma in hotel management comprising 18 months of classroom study followed by six months of internship in a 4 or 5 star hotel in Oman. The next programme intake will commence from October 2.

This comprehensive programme provides training in all facets of the hospitality industry comprising revenue, sales, finance, marketing and support for centres of an operation in relation to knowledge and skills required for the job at a junior supervisory level. The programme is designed to suit new entrants, working professionals, as well as leaders in the industry.

On completion of the 2 year hotel management diploma, students can progress to degrees they can obtain through NHI from the Hotel and Tourism Management Institute, Switzerland (HTMI) or Queen Margaret University, Scotland. Skills and knowledge gained through the two-year diploma makes it easier for the students to perform as they have had a better understanding of the industry in terms of what the industry expects from them and also on what their expectations of the industry should be.

"Some features of the programme include in-depth information on areas in hospitality which are seldom considered such as risk management, facilities management, accounting or human resource management. Students also got trained practically in a hospitality operation's core areas such as housekeeping



food and beverage, food production and front office operations. They are also made responsible for planning, organising and operating events, designing and cooking various types of menus ensuring they are up-to-date with current hospitality events and trends", said Freddy Hines, team leader for Diploma.

Applicants with a minimum qualification of grade 12 or 10 in any stream are admitted for full time programme. Applicants of grade 12 in commerce will have an advantage as their prior knowledge in areas such as entrepreneurship, business studies, informatics, accounting and English provide better understanding during teaching

and instruction during the programme. Industry professionals who wish to obtain formal qualifications to commensurate their experience will need to have worked in a hospitality operation for at least three years.

"We are always looking for ways to provide the best experience possible to a learner. NHI's Manager in Training (MIT) concept does just that. It provides learners with opportunities to take on various responsibilities for which they are accountable, just like one would be in the industry. These responsibilities include health, safety and environment, event management, food safety monitoring, information technology and customer interaction," explained Olivia Pussurtha, Commercial Manager NHI.

"NHI provides assistance with internship placements and based on the current status of students who have completed the programme, we are very pleased to see that they have been offered jobs in various positions in the hospitality sector around the country. This can only be attributed to exposure during their time at NHI and per-

formance at the workplace of internship with the support of their supervisors and managers," she further added.

NHI's courses and development programmes are world-class, delivered by certified world-class trainers from industry and experts in their core areas, of professional commercial facilities. The Institute has been designed to mirror the industry and to give trainees the opportunity to acquire the skills required to create a platform necessary for a successful career within the industry, as well as providing a Realistic Working Environment to enable trainees to be assessed on their knowledge and skills whilst "on the job".

"We already have a range of programmes to suit everyone including working professionals in hospitality, be it an experienced line member, supervisor, department head or area specialist. Our formal professional certifications for such individuals are designed to suit their busy schedules that can sometimes be quite difficult to move around," said Robert MacLean, principal.