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Mr Yap Koon Hong
Forum Page Editor
The Straits Times

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Dear Editor

In "Young civil servants need course in street-cred" (ST, May 27), Mr George Lim suggested that young Administrative Officers should get ground exposure before they craft major policies.

We agree that ground exposure is necessary and we have programmes to achieve this. Management Associates, who are usually fresh entrants to the Service, attend a foundation programme that includes attachments to voluntary welfare organisations and front line service departments. These officers typically start their careers as junior executives, handling similar line responsibilities as other fresh graduate entrants.

In addition, all young Administrative Officers have to undergo a six-month community attachment programme with the People's Association where they interact and contribute actively at the grassroots level.

Each year close to 20% of the Administrative Officers are deployed to agencies with ground operations such as statutory boards, or sent on attachment to private sector organisations, Community Development Councils and overseas assignments. With time, every officer should have gone through an operational posting.

Such varied postings and assignments provide good ground and operational exposure to our officers.

Yours sincerely

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