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A day of living their dream jobs

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Mr Ong Ye Kung seated with beneficiaries from Business Times Budding Artists Fund during a police post visit. PHOTO: KELVIN CHNG

Singapore

LAUGHTER and anticipation filled the air at KidZania Singapore on Thursday with more than 700 underprivileged children transforming into job hopppers for various real-world professions in a day. They were living out their dream jobs as firefighters, radio DJs, or

even dentists, earning KidZos - KidZania's official currency - which they can either save or spend at any KidZania entertainment park.

The outing is an early treat to celebrate Children's Day, made possible by Children for Children (CFC), an annual community event that takes underprivileged kids to Singapore's key attractions. Jointly organised by The Business Times, CHIJ (Kellock) and The RICE Company Limited, CFC is into its ninth year and has hosted over 10,000 children at popular Singapore attractions such as Singapore Flyer, Singapore Zoo, Underwater World Singapore and Universal Studios Singapore since 2008. For the first time, CFC is hosting students with special needs this year.

"KidZania Singapore is delighted to support CFC this year," said KidZania Singapore general manager Leong Yue Weng. "As an award-winning educational attraction that offers a safe environment and level playing field for all children, we believe that every child deserves the right to learn through play. We hope that the children can enjoy a fun and fulfilling day out as they explore the various professions available in this kid-sized City, and help to kick-start their journey of inculcating useful life skills and values."

As part of the programme, pupils from CHIJ (Kellock) played host and entertained the children with an interactive drama skit titled "We Are Friends", as well as games, thus providing a platform to reach out to their less-privileged peers. CHIJ (Kellock) also presented a book, which has the same name as the skit, to Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence Ong Ye Kung, who was the guest of honour.

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"Inspired by Prime Minister's speech on how Singapore must work towards building an inclusive Singapore, the children at CHIJ (Kellock) were invited to step out of their world and to experience what it means to be inclusive," said CHIJ (Kellock) principal Magdalene Chin.

This year's event is made possible with the generous support of sponsors which include Ademco (Far East), CEI Ltd, CWT Ltd, Kim Seng Heng Engineering Construction Pte Ltd, PrimeStaff Management Services, Sentosa Development Corp and VentureHaven Pte Ltd.

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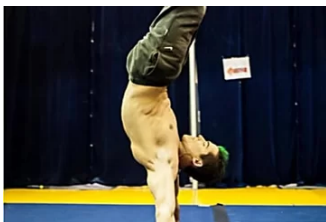
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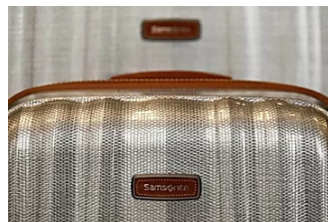
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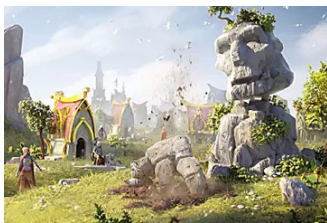
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