A fun learning experience of Vocational English - The High Tea Encounter: A Tea Culture Exchange over “T”

Some twenty students from Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre of VTC (HITDC) participated in a lively English workshop conducted by Ms. Susan Partridge, a visiting guest speaker from UK, themed “The High Tea Encounter” on 7 October 2013 at TDS training restaurant at Pokfulam.

Prior to retirement, Ms. Partridge worked for Somerville College of Oxford University and several educational organizations with good insight in education and academic administration. Being a native English speaker from UK, she was enthusiastic to share her knowledge in English High Tea culture to the young fellows of VTC under an interactive learning environment. Facilitated by English instructors, HITDC students from Hotel Front Office, Housekeeping, Western Food Preparation and Food & Beverage divisions had enjoyed an inspirational English workshop with Ms. Partridge served with English High Tea sets.
Ms. Partridge began with an introduction of differences between Afternoon Tea and English High Tea, followed by an explanation of dining etiquette, dress code, table setting and dining sequence of English High Tea. To inspire conversations, she also invited students to share their career ambitions and encouraged them to keep practicing English as an essential skill to achieve their goals. The fun and aspirational workshop was concluded with a flower bouquet presentation to Ms. Partridge by the students.

Being an Asia's premier international city and a world-class destination for leisure and business visitors, tourism industry is one of the most important pillars in Hong Kong’s economy. There is also no doubt that English is the international language and English training for workplace is a very important element in the curriculum of the Hospitality Industry Training and Development Centre (HITDC) of VTC. In view of this, language classes are compulsory in all courses offered. Trainees learn job-related English and Putonghua in the Language Laboratory and lively English training workshops are being held from time to time to stimulate learning interests of students.