

Headstart for deserving students



Dr Yap (third from right) doing the 'Soaring Upwards' wave with a group of scholarship recipients.

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LOSING her mother to ovarian cancer inspired 21-year-old Tan Soh Lin to be a pharmacist.

"I am determined to help others," said Tan, a first year Bachelor of Pharmacy student.

Tan was one of 607 recipients of the UCSI University Trust Award and Scholarship 2017 where over RM13.7 mil worth of scholarships and bursaries were disbursed.

Upon receiving her award, Tan said she felt honoured to receive the scholarship.

Hailing from Indonesia, fellow award recipient Dinno Marcelo, 21, said it was a blessing to receive the scholarship.

"As I am actively involved in various extra curricular activities, I have to manage my time well.

"Academics has always been my first priority," said the second year Petroleum Engineering student. Marcelo encouraged his peers to be passionate in whatever they do.

"Either you give your 100% or you don't at all," he added.

Woon Li Qi, 19, said it was encouraging to know that her hard work did not go to waste.

"My parents are proud and that makes me happy," said the A-Level student in Science.

Li Qi who hopes to be an engineer, encouraged her peers to strive for their dreams.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap who presented certificates to several recipients, said the scholarships and bursaries gives students who may not have the financial means to continue their studies.

"This is a very noble event whereby students are given recognition for their academic excellence. It is not just about academics but these students were also assessed based on their soft skills, ability to communicate, leader-

ship and problem solving skills.

"The fact that students are achieving excellent marks is a positive implication that the quality of education is getting better," she added.

UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Senior Prof Datuk Dr Khalid Yusoff said there is a need for ways to ensure the availability, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of higher education. He encouraged the recipients to make a difference.

UCSI University Trust chairman Datuk Dr Mohd Karim Abdullah Omar said: "To all scholarship recipients, I believe it was your willingness to go the extra mile and your relentless pursuit of your goal that brought you here today."

"Nelson Mandela once pointed out that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," he added.

Also present were UCSI Group advisor Senator Datuk Seri Khairudin Samad, UCSI Group chairman Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and UCSI founder and group chief executive officer Datuk Peter Ng.