Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Fund – Five Years On

Tan Chin Tuan was a great man of the 20th century – a generous philanthropist who made significant contributions to Singapore. He was also a visionary who prepared the soil for the growth of our nation. Such generosity and vision has been there long before he passed away in 2003, he practically lived being a philanthropist.

Tan Chin Tuan was an architect whose legacy was built on a philosophy of how money was spent and what projects were sponsored that could make a difference in the lives of others. His vision was to prepare a stable foundation for the development of the Singapore nation.

The Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Fund was established in 2001 to commemorate the 100th birth centennial of Tan Chin Tuan, Singapore’s leading industrialist and philanthropist.

The fund was established to support the development of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in areas that Tan Chin Tuan believed in. The fund was set up in partnership with the Singapore government to form a $20 million Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Fund.

The gift was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Singapore government to form the Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Fund. Tan Sri Tan was an ardent supporter of education and had played a pivotal role in fulfilling the objectives of the fund. His passing at the age of 97 on 21 July 2003 had made a huge impact on Singapore and the world.

In August 2008, construction of the Tan Chin Tuan Building for the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of NTU was completed.

In 2011, the University of Cambridge founded the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, the world’s first foundation to support the China-UK collaboration in the field of land and environmental management.

The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation is committed to supporting research and educational initiatives in China and the United Kingdom. With the launch of an educational assistance programme, it will be able to support the next generation of leaders.

The programme is open to students from China, and those who have received their academic training in China.

The programme aims to enhance the quality of education and support the development of joint research initiatives.

The programme supports well-qualified students to pursue advanced degrees at NTU.

The fund will also support executive development programmes for the next generation of leaders.

The University of Cambridge is a prestigious institution that has a strong reputation for scientific and technological innovation.

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Grooming Future Leaders

To enhance, develop and prepare the next generation of leaders in international development and public administration, Cargill Asia Pacific Holdings Pte Ltd made a generous gift of $2.5 million to establish the Cargill China Leadership Endowment Fund. This visionary gift will help groom leaders who are capable of building institutions of excellence across communities in China, and improve lives of future generations.

The Fund awards up to ten scholarship awards annually, each valued at $20,000, and are available to outstanding China mayors and senior government officials pursuing the Master of Science in Managerial Economics (MME) and the Master of Public Administration (MPA) programmes, offered by the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA) at NTU.

Mr Bram Klaeijsen, President and Regional Director for Cargill Asia Pacific, said: “As China continues to transform itself, building and enhancing leadership capacity will remain essential. The Cargill China Leadership Endowment Fund will provide Chinese government officials the opportunity to pursue overseas training opportunities in international development and public administration. Our goal is to make a meaningful contribution to the sustainable development of China.”

Mr Klaeijsen added: “We are proud to be a partner of NTU’s China Leadership Programmes. Run by its well-respected Nanyang Centre for Public Administration, it is a highly regarded choice for overseas training programmes for Chinese officials.”

The two full-time Masters programmes, collectively dubbed the “Mayors’ Class”, have been successfully equipping students with the knowledge and skills to conceptualise and implement innovative solutions that address some of China’s gargantuan challenges such as pollution, healthcare, urban infrastructure, ageing population and social security.

The Fund will also support executive training programmes in public administration, economic management, urban planning, human resource management and community management. These programmes focus on improving the knowledge, expertise and competence of China’s public servants.

The centre also engages acclaimed public administration industry practitioners, who specialise in the research and teaching of China’s sociology, economy, politics, public administration and environmental issues, to share their valuable insights on Singapore’s model of public governance.

To date, more than 1,200 local and international government leaders from China have graduated from the Mayors’ Class. Many of these graduates have been promoted from mayors to governors or from deputy heads to heads of their organisations. In 2011, NCPA’s contribution was recognised when the Mayors’ Class won the coveted Business China Excellence Award, introduced in 2010 by The Business Times to recognise outstanding individuals and organisations for their contributions to the Singapore-China relationship.

“As China stands at a critical juncture of deepening its reform and its drive to open up as well as restructure its economy, Chinese officials will face more challenges in living up to their responsibilities. NTU’s advanced training programme, which caters mainly to senior office-bearers, has been successfully improving the officials’ overall management level and capabilities, as well as broaden their world view,” said Associate Professor Wu Wei, Director of NCPA.

Besides education and training, NTU also plays an active role in deepening bilateral relations through its unique research and exchange programmes. “NTU’s training of senior Chinese officials is a key initiative in the university’s strategy to become the New Silk Road of knowledge as NTU really represents the best of the East and West,” added Prof Wu.

Cargill has been a leading international producer and marketer of food, agricultural, financial and industrial products and services since its establishment in 1865. The partnership between Cargill Asia Pacific and NTU leverages on a shared belief in the transformative power of education and solving the challenges of a diverse, expanding and interconnected world.
NTU student Lee Quanlong learned to fend for himself from a young age. His parents separated when he was 13, and since then, he has had to take on part-time employment to supplement his personal allowance.

“I had the opportunity to gain ‘freedom’ from parental control at a very young age,” Quanlong reflected. “All the experiences that I gained from working part-time gave me the opportunity to learn about the toughness of earning your own keep. I will say this experience made me more mature in terms of financial management and gaining work experience.”

And while Quanlong’s mature and positive outlook served him well, the push to excel in a university setting where the bar was raised even higher provided a new challenge in his life, made more demanding because of his financial difficulties.

“Having to put in more hours at my part-time job, I did not have the luxury to revise my school work as much as compared to my peers. I wouldn’t say this affected my preparation for examinations entirely, but having to watch what I eat in order to not overspend during the exam period can be difficult,” the sports management student said simply.

Academic performance aside, the other often unseen cost faced by students such as Quanlong who find themselves having to plough long hours to earn part-time income is forgoing the time spent building friendships and a support network at precisely the phase of their lives when they need it most.

“When I first learnt that I was to be awarded with the Hotel 81-Choo Chong Ngen Bursary, I felt a big sense of relief. Coming from a low income family, I often have to rely on financial help,” said Quanlong, now in his fourth year.

With the award of the bursary, in addition to being able to devote more time to his studies, Quanlong, who has a minor in entrepreneurship, was also able to spend more time cultivating his passion and giving back to NTU.

He started Top Sport Group, a company that organizes sports events, conducts educational workshops, and manages athletes.

And to cap that, the financial security provided by the Hotel 81-Choo Chong Ngen Bursary spurred Quanlong to further hone his leadership skills.

“My mom felt a great sense of relief for me considering that she often sees me coming home late due to work. With this bursary, I do have a little more time to spend with her,” he added.

The Hotel 81-Choo Chong Ngen Bursary Fund was established with a generous $2 million gift from Mr Choo, one of Singapore’s most successful hoteliers. He decided to give towards the cause of helping students facing financial hardship gain access to quality education after witnessing the transformative power of education on his daughter, Ms Carolyn Choo, who graduated with First Class Honours from NTU’s Nanyang Business School in 1999.

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Looking back at the difference that the Hotel 81-Choo Chong Ngen Bursary has made in his life, Quanlong remarked, “I wish to take this chance to sincerely thank Mr Choo for easing a whole lot of financial worries for needy students. Your kind gesture of donating money to the school has benefitted many students like me who needed the money to exchange for time to pursue our dreams.”
The Ma Jan Memorial Fund: In Memory Of An Inspiring Teacher With Innovative Spirit

An extraordinary scientist, a dedicated teacher, an inspirational leader, a genuine friend – these are common words associated with the late Professor Ma Jan, former Chair of NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE), who passed away suddenly in June 2012 at the age of 46, after a heart attack.

A Cambridge University PhD holder, Prof Ma’s teaching and research abilities were exceptional. He was passionate about the need to nurture Singapore’s next generation materials scientists and engineers, and always found time for his students despite his countless duties and responsibilities as a scientist.

A notable example: One of Prof Ma’s students has a medical condition called Tourette’s syndrome, causing him to use multilingual foul language involuntarily, which offended several ethnic groups. Prof Ma spent many hours with the student and tolerated the language. He also arranged for the student to sit in the projection room during lectures, so as to minimize disturbances. Prof Ma was extremely proud when the student graduated in 2012. This truly exemplifies the spirit of Prof Ma.

A dedicated scientist who embodied NTU’s spirit of innovation, Prof Ma left an indelible mark with many life-saving inventions and applications. Prof Ma was part of the team with then-School Chair (now Provost) Professor Freddy Boey that patented the world’s smallest heart pump that can be inserted into the body without open-heart surgery.

In memory of Prof Ma’s dedication and contribution to education, the Ma Jan Memorial Fund was established by NTU to support deserving students from MSE with bursaries and scholarships, in perpetuity. In this way, the name of Professor Ma Jan and his legacy will live on.

The generous donations from more than 400 donors is a testimony of the high regard in which Prof Ma was held by colleagues, collaborators, students and friends. With 1.5 times government matching, a total of $625,000 was raised and the Fund will continue to remain open for contributions.

The Ma Jan Memorial Fund was launched on 1 August 2013, an event attended by NTU President, Provost and many of Prof Ma’s colleagues, collaborators, friends and students. The High Speed Dynamics Laboratory at NTU was also renamed the Ma Jan High Speed Dynamics Laboratory in Prof Ma’s honour on this day.

Said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson at the launch, “Ma Jan’s contribution and dedication went beyond our NTU community. Always finding ways to help others, he had touched and inspired many students, researchers and faculty who were lucky to have known him here in Singapore and abroad.”

Three MSE students from financially disadvantaged families were the first to receive the Ma Jan Bursaries on the day of its launch. The bursaries, each worth $5,000, will support the students for one year of study.

NTU Provost, Professor Freddy Boey said, “With the Ma Jan Memorial Fund, talented students who share the passion for materials science and engineering that was so much part of Ma Jan’s life, will not be denied an education at NTU. The fund, and those it supports, will provide a lasting tribute to a much-missed professor who made such a tremendous contribution to materials science education and research during his life.”

Gifts in Action • ImpactNTU features how gifts from alumni, parents, friends, corporations and foundations are making an ongoing impact on our students, programmes, research, faculty and facilities at NTU.

To find out more about giving to NTU, please contact the Development Office • Tel: (65) 6790-6080 • Fax: (65) 6792-6627 • Email: maindo@ntu.edu.sg • Website: www.ntu.edu.sg/DO
Being grateful for hardships is hardly an expected response from a typical youth, but then again, Cheryl Teo Li Min has weathered more ups and downs in life than most Singapore students her age.

With her brother shouldering the load as the family’s sole breadwinner, the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information student has had to take on part-time employment to help alleviate the family’s financial burden.

“Having lesser social life is just part and parcel. Sometimes, I have to sacrifice personal time,” said Cheryl, adding that the thought of working more hours to offset her school fees crossed her mind.

However, the constant worry about finding money to pay for her school fees and expenses and the hours spent taking on part-time work started to take a toll on her.

Help came when Cheryl was informed that she had been awarded the Kim Leng Tee Bursary.

“They were elated,” recalled Cheryl when asked to describe her parents’ reaction. “They were also relieved that my brother did not need to work extra hard, and he can save up for his marriage and future family.”

Sharing how important the bursary was for the Teo household, Cheryl said, “It was extremely crucial, as it really took a huge rock off my family’s shoulder.”

“My family need not sacrifice for my education and I can focus more on my studies,” she elaborated.

Looking back at this especially challenging period, Cheryl reflected on how it impacted her as a person.

“To be honest, I am grateful for the hardships. They shaped me to become who I am today, and gave me a new outlook of life,” she confided. “If I were to name one of the many ways, I would say it is being appreciative of what I have instead of focusing on what I do not have.”

Wise beyond her years, the second-year student added, “We can’t have everything in the world. These hardships taught me lessons that can’t be bought with money.”

With a significant part of her financial worries alleviated, Cheryl is now able to become more involved in her co-curricular activity and in giving back to society. The affable student who aspires one day to be an advertising maven and to transform Singapore’s arts scene recently participated in a HOPE program teaching English and craft work in Indonesia.

Deeply grateful to the donors of the Kim Leng Tee Bursary Fund, Cheryl added, “I am really thankful for being awarded with this bursary, as it has affected every aspect of my life. Most importantly, my parents are able to stop worrying about my school fees. Although they would have done all they can to put me through the last phase of my education, my heart aches to know how much they have to sacrifice and worry about me.”

“Being able to go through university, I will be able to focus on self-development and grow while learning. With all these and a degree, I will be able to take care of my parents the same way they took care of me.”

The Kim Leng Tee Bursary Fund at NTU was established in 2006 through a generous gift of $400,000 comprising funds from Kim Leng Tee Pte Ltd, and donations from the children of Mr Tan Tong Meng and Mdm Teo Sai Nen. A series of top-ups made in 2009 and 2010 in combination with government matching has made possible the perpetual funding of bursaries valued annually at $3,000 each to students at NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

The Kim Leng Tee Bursary Fund opened the doors to not just a world-class education for students facing significant financial hardship, but also provided the financial security for them to truly embrace the life of a university student, allowing them to take advantage of self-development opportunities such as participating in enrichment programs and expanding their social support system through co-curricular activities.
Recognising Academic Excellence and Leadership Potential

Scholarships recognise students for their accomplishments and provide them with the confidence to pursue their dreams, and also distinguish students among their peers and motivate them to reach for higher goals. For many students, a tertiary education would not be possible without the help of donors who provide generous financial assistance.

The gift of $750,000 (with government matching) from Columbia Investment Partners to establish the Columbia “Nissi” Scholarship demonstrates their continued support and commitment towards education and nurturing of the next generation. This is the second gift from Columbia Investment Partners to Nanyang Technological University (NTU), following their first gift in 2008 to establish the Columbia “Jireh” Scholarship.

The Columbia “Nissi” Scholarship recognises academic excellence and leadership potential of outstanding Nanyang Business School (NBS) undergraduates. The Scholarship allows up to two scholarships of $15,000 per award for the span of an academic year, in perpetuity. The Scholarship is open to Year 1 NBS students with strong academic results, who are also active in co-curricular activities and display great leadership qualities and/or sporting potential.

Besides providing financial assistance, Columbia Investment Partners also show their support through active involvement in the selection process of the candidates, as well as providing internship opportunities for shortlisted candidates.

From the pool of applicants, four candidates will be shortlisted to undergo a 3-month internship programme at Columbia Investment Partners or its subsidiary companies. The internship provides a great opportunity for students to gain valuable experience and insight into the workings of a global asset management firm focusing on investing in real estate, with offices in Singapore, Xi’an (China) and New York.

Upon completion of the internship, up to two candidates will be selected to receive the Scholarship. Candidates who have completed their internship but were not selected for this Scholarship are still eligible to be considered for other privately funded scholarships including the Columbia “Jireh” Scholarship.

The Columbia “Nissi” Scholarship will benefit many NBS students for generations to come, and continue to provide opportunities for many to fulfil their dreams and aspirations.

The Columbia “Jireh” Scholarship was established in 2008 with a gift of $250,000 from Columbia Investment Partners Pte Ltd. The Scholarship supports up to four awards of $5,000 each for the span of an academic year.

The Columbia “Jireh” Scholarship is open to Singapore Citizens pursing an undergraduate education at NTU, from Nanyang Business School, the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the School of Art, Design and Media and the School of Biological Sciences.