



STRONG COMMITMENT ... Star Education Fund 2002 contributors and recipients posing with Hon (seated, in brown suit) and Ng (in blue dress) yesterday.

Star Education Fund into ninth year and counting

PETALING JAYA: Thirty-five of the country's leading private higher education institutions joined Star Publications (M) Bhd yesterday in awarding scholarships to 183 bright and financially deserving students.

In its ninth year, the Star Education Fund is awarding RM5.5mil worth of scholarships to students pursuing vocational, undergraduate and postgraduate studies at local private education institutions as well as foreign universities.

Star Publications group chief editor Datuk Ng Poh Tip presented the eight scholarships awarded by the company while heads and representatives of the various educational institutions presented theirs to the students. The guest-of-honour at the ceremony was Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim.

In her speech, Ng commended the private education institutions for their continued support to the Fund which was established to help the country meet the demand for skilled manpower as well as provide educational opportunities to needy and deserving students.

"We are all here with a common interest - education. The demand for high quality education has increased in the past decade, particularly with more emphasis on tertiary education.

"Malaysia has become the hub of education excellence in the region and *The Star* is committed to the development of education in the nation and is mindful of its corporate role in contributing to society through the Star Education Fund.

"Many of the colleges contributing to the fund are not new and are good examples of responsible corporate citizens," said Ng.

The fund is divided into two tiers, with Tier One scholarships offered by *The Star* and Tier Two

by private educational institutions. Institutions participating in the Fund this year are: Alif Creative Academy, Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology, Binary College, Equator Academy of Art and Design, FTMS - De Monfort University, Help Institute, Institute Advertising Communication Training, Informatics, Institut Perkin-Goon, and Pusat Teknologi dan Pengurusan Lanjutan.

The others are: Inti College Malaysia, Inti International College Penang, KLC Centre for Higher Studies, KDU College, LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology, Millennium Institute of Technology, Metropolitan College, Malaysia Institute of Integrative Media, Nilai College, Penang Medical College, Prime College, Saito Academy, SAL Group of Colleges, Sedaya International College, Sepang Institute of Technology, Sunway College, Systematic Education Group, Taylor's College, The One Academy, University of Nottingham in Malaysia, Malaysia University of Science and Technology, Napier University, University of East London and the University of Bradford.

For recipient Suthakaran Pannirselvam, 18, who was awarded a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Computer and Information Systems at Sunway College, the scholarship was "a godsend".

"This is extremely unbelievable! It (getting the scholarship) is a huge relief and I really do thank God, *The Star* and Sunway College for selecting me.

"I had planned to either enrol in Form Six or start work to save money for my education. Now, I don't have to think about those plans," said Suthakaran whose father is a hospital attendant and mother a production worker.