

167 receive Star scholarships

PETALING JAYA: Not knowing who her parents are has not stopped Ruth Tan Mui from making the most of her life.

For the 20-year-old Stamford College student, the path will be a lot smoother now, thanks to *The Star* Education Fund.

"It is nothing short of a miracle as I didn't expect to get this scholarship," said Tan, who has been living in a home since she was two years old.

Currently pursuing her diploma in business administration, Tan said she would have been forced to work if she had not received the scholarship.

"I was very nervous about the whole situation but I prayed really hard, and God answered me with a call from *The Star* after my interview, telling me that I had gotten it," she added.

Another recipient is Chia Ken Beng, who received his scholarship for a postgraduate programme.

The Unity College student, who is pursuing a Masters in Business Administration (MBA), is fulfilling one of his goals in life.

Currently an assistant manager of corporate analysis at HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd, he made a vow to himself that when he secured his first managerial post, he would apply to do his MBA.

"The timing of this scholarship has been nothing short of perfect, as my previous work experience has made me appreciate my studies more," said the qualified accountant, who is doing his Masters on a part-time basis.

Tan and Chia were among 167 students who received scholarships, thanks to the fund



GROUP PHOTO: The scholarship presenters and recipients, *The Star* deputy group chief editor I Michael Aeria (in the middle of second row with striped tie), Ng (next to him in olive green) and Star Publications (M) Bhd deputy group general manager Datin Linda Ngiam (on Ng's left) having their picture taken after *The Star* Education Fund awards presentation ceremony in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

scholarships worth RM4.9mil to deserving students to continue their education.

"A total of 44 private higher educational institutions, both local and foreign, contributed to the fund.


Since its inception in 1994, the fund has disbursed a total of RM37.8mil to 1,777 students.

The Star group editorial/education adviser Datuk Ng Poh Tip said Budget 2007 had made generous provisions for the education sector, which would go towards improving

tertiary institutions.

"In line with the Government's move to grant more study opportunities to deserving and needy students, *The Star* hopes that more of our partners-in-education will provide full scholarships to future recipients under *The Star* Education Fund," she said in her speech at the awards presentation ceremony here yesterday.

The fund is divided into two tiers, with the first consisting of contributions made by *The Star*. This year, six students re-

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Town, Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Scholarships in the second tier are from local and foreign higher educational institutions.

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