

Chance to pursue their dream careers

Maritime diploma graduates awarded scholarships for university studies

They had a dream that did not involve a desk-bound career.

So Mr Eric Tan Wei Hao, 23, and Miss Yvonne Wiu Xuan Lin, 20, opted to study for a maritime career.

That dream is becoming a reality.

On Aug 13, Mr Tan and Miss Wiu were among 58 students who were awarded the Maritime Outreach Network (MaritimeONE) Scholarships and Tripartite Maritime Scholarships.

After graduating with a Diploma in Marine Engineering from Singapore Polytechnic's Singapore Maritime Academy in 2012 and 2014 respectively, Mr Tan and Miss Wiu are now moving on to pursue two-year degree programmes at the Singapore Institute of Technology with Newcastle University in the UK. (See next report.)

Mr Tan will pursue a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Naval Architecture while Miss Wiu will pursue a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Marine Engineering, both sponsored by the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).

The scholars have elder siblings in the maritime industry.

Mr Tan's brother, Mr Tan Guohao, 28, graduated with a mechanical engineering degree and is now a technician at National Oilwell Varco.

Another brother, Mr Tan Yong Hao, 27, is an operations executive with Ocean Bunkering Services.

He said: "It is a good industry to go into. There is always a demand as Singapore is highly dependent on international trade."

"Besides the monetary award, this scholarship also provides him with a rare opportunity to have an internship with ABS.

"The experience gained from interning with one of the world's leading ship classification societies will be invaluable."

Miss Wiu's eldest sister, Miss Wiu Peiyan, 31, graduated from the same diploma course, and is now a project engineer with Caterpillar Marine.

Mr Eric Tan said: "After my O levels, I chose the Diploma in Marine Engineering programme because I wanted a career like no other, something that is exciting and challenging."

"The polytechnic lecturers also shared interesting stories that further fuelled my interest in a maritime career."

Miss Wiu said: "My eldest sister advised me to pursue the marine engineering

programme at the polytechnic. My parents also encouraged me."

GAINING HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

After his national service last year, Mr Tan took a three-month course relating to the oil and gas industry at Robert Gordon University, UK, before he moved on to work in a local shipyard.

There he assisted the engineers in preparing the layout and design of complex piping systems.

During the second year of her polytechnic studies, Miss Wiu led a group of seven first-year polytechnic students on a trip to Japan on board a training ship.

The up-close experience with the machinery in the ship's engine room during the seven-day voyage left a deep impression.

After graduating last year, she worked from August to February as the only female engine cadet on board container ship APL Savannah.

She said: "During my tour of duty, I helped my seniors in the repair and maintenance of machinery, writing the daily log book and doing daily rounds to check for leakages and other problems from the machines."

"While in polytechnic, I also interned at Wartsila, where I went to different departments to learn from my colleagues about how to dismantle fuel pumps and do calibrations, among other things."

Miss Wiu has obtained her Certificate of Competency for Class 5 for marine engineers (COC 5), an internationally recognised certification for marine engineers working on board ocean-going merchant ships.

Mr Derek Novak, ABS President and COO, Pacific Division, said: "Eric Tan and Yvonne Wiu are the second batch of award recipients since ABS joined the MaritimeONE Scholarship programme last year."

"It is an initiative that we are happy to support because it allows us to spot talented and bright minds that could potentially contribute to the success of our organisation down the line."

"Moreover, we think that it is also beneficial for MaritimeONE Scholars of varying academic and sponsor backgrounds to have the chance to interact and learn from one another even as students because it prepares them well for the future."



More than \$2m for maritime scholarships

On Aug 13, the Government, maritime businesses and local seafarer unions presented more than \$2.6 million in maritime scholarships during the MaritimeONE Scholarship Awards Ceremony.

The ceremony was held at the Conrad Centennial Singapore Hotel.

Funds for the MaritimeONE Scholarships are pledged by various stakeholders in the maritime industry, including shipping lines, shipyards and maritime ancillary service companies.

This year, 38 MaritimeONE scholarships worth more than \$1.2 million were sponsored by 20 organisations.

Sponsors for 2015 include: "K" Line, American Bureau of Shipping, F.H. Bertling Chartering & Ship Management, IMC Industrial Group, Jurong Port, L.C.H. (S), NORDEN Shipping (Singapore), Pacific International Lines, PSA Corporation, Sailors' Society, Sembcorp Marine, Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU), Swire Pacific Offshore Operations, The Chua Chor Teck Memorial Fund, Transport Capital, Singapore Maritime Academy — Singapore Polytechnic, Chung-Ang University in South Korea, Flagship Ventures, Global Maritime Talent and Plymouth University in the UK.

The TMSS scholarships are jointly funded by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, shipping companies, SMOU and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen.

Twenty TMSS scholarships valued at about \$1.4 million were awarded this year to students enrolled in the Nautical Studies and Marine Engineering diploma programmes offered at the Singapore Maritime Academy at the Singapore Polytechnic.