



KKH and Wilmar scholars welcoming Mr Kuok Khoon Hong.



From left: Mr Tay Thiam Peng, Head, Special Projects, Wilmar International; Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT and Mr Kuok enjoying a lively chat together with the scholarship recipients.

# 84 Seeds for Change

*21 of SIT's 84 Wilmar and KKH Scholars get to meet the donor who made possible the scholarships that have changed their lives*

The KKH Scholarship and Wilmar Scholarship, two of the earliest non-bonded scholarships to be made available at SIT, have positively impacted a long line of SIT students from as far back as 2011.

In appreciation of the many doors the scholarships have opened for 84 scholarship recipients, SIT held an appreciation tea for the donors, Wilmar International and Mr Kuok Khoon Hong, on 8 August 2018 at the SIT@Dover Campus. The tea was hosted by Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, and the afternoon's programme included a tour of the campus for the guests. Also present were 21 of the 84 KKH and Wilmar Scholars who received the scholarships from 2011 to 2017.

During the session, recipients met Mr Kuok, who is Chairman and CEO of Wilmar International, and thanked him for the support that had enabled them to pursue their aspirations. Several of the recipients are now working in occupations ranging from mechanical engineering and robotics to research in fields such as artificial intelligence, health sciences and food technology.

Mr Kuok in turn shared with them a wealth of insights gleaned from his years as an agribusiness leader. Chiefly, he advised them to use their free time in their youth to study topics in depth, as they would not have such ample time as they grew older. Using his in-depth understanding of grains, soybeans, and agriculture as illustrations, Mr Kuok explained how gaining deep knowledge and knowing realities of work done in factories and fields would give a person the "five per cent higher level of quality" that would give them an edge over competitors. He also encouraged the recipients to think about how their products or services could provide the widest commercial value to consumers.

Among the scholars at the appreciation was Class of 2017 alumnus, Mr Chew Kia Yong (Food & Human Nutrition programme, Newcastle University). A recipient of the KKH Scholarship, he went on to join Wilmar International as a Technical Service Executive after graduation. He said, "Mr Kuok conveyed to us the importance of seizing the right opportunity when we are presented with it. He recounted how, during a time when he was heavily involved in the wheat trade, he took the opportunity to do extensive hands-on work and grasp the industry know-how he possesses today."

Ms Michelle Tan, a Wilmar Scholar who is also from the Class of 2017, is now a Programme Coordinator at Singapore General Hospital who works on a research programme involving pre-diabetes patients. She said what stuck with her most was Mr Kuok's lifelong journey of continual innovation and of constantly finding ways to meet the needs of his consumers. "I felt privileged and honoured to be at the session and to hear him tell his story," she added.



KKH Scholarship and Wilmar Scholarship recipients, together with Prof Tan, Mr Kuok, Mr Tay, and SIT faculty and staff.