

# For SITizens, by SITizens!

Faculty and staff gather to support SIT Bursary over a light breakfast shared with bursary recipients



SIT faculty and staff taking time off their busy schedules to support the SIT Bursary.

It was a meeting of hearts – and a generous sharing of financial resources – as faculty members and staff of the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) gathered on a beautiful Thursday morning at SIT@Dover to mingle with SIT Bursary recipients.

They had turned up at the University Tower foyer at SIT@Dover for the third Faculty & Staff Giving roadshow, which was held on 28 July 2016 in support of the SIT Bursary. And as they met, it was evident that faculty and staff attendees were very pleased at how these bursaries were helping to nurture the bursary recipients.

"I am glad that these bursaries are helping our needy students to continue their studies without which they may have to work part-time or quit school altogether," said Assoc Prof Malcolm Low Yoke Hean, who is also Programme Director, Infocomm Technology.

Introduced in November 2015, the Faculty & Staff Giving initiative provides an opportunity for SIT faculty and staff to invest in the future of financially disadvantaged students by supporting the SIT Bursary – in other words, it is an initiative that is for SITizens, by SITizens.

Last year, thanks to collective gifts made by SIT faculty and staff (and many of these were made as recurrent gifts through monthly payroll deductions), the University was able to award an additional 18 SIT Bursaries for deserving students in Academic Year 2015/16. Valued at \$3,000 each, this is a bursary that is applicable to students (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) who come from households with a per capita income of no more than \$850.

One of the most accessible student financial aid instruments made available at SIT, the SIT Bursary can help cover some of the recipient's academic expenses, which range from \$13,380 to \$28,250 (taking the example of a Singaporean student paying subsidised fees) in the current Academic Year of 2016/17. Every gift is invaluable, as the latest statistics for AY 2016/17 show that 47% of students at SIT would require financial aid.

Mr Khaleef Mun Seng, a second-year student from the Information and Communications Technology (Software Engineering) programme, received the SIT Bursary in AY 2015/16. He said, "The bursary allowed me to focus on my studies without having to worry about school fees and daily expenses. It was a great help."

Also supporting the initiative was alumnus Ms Sharlene Sou, a graduate of the Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Administration (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) in 2013. She runs the CoffeeSou coffee catering business and as

in the first roadshow, was on hand to provide a steady flow of piping-hot coffee and tea that went down well with the youtiao and otak-otak "sandwich" that was specially created for the roadshow.

The bursary recipients were touched by the friendliness and generosity of the faculty and staff at the Roadshow. Ms Victoria Goh, who is in her second year in the Bachelor of Accountancy (Hons) programme, said, "They were really concerned about my welfare and even provided advice on how I could manage my studies. They were also most willing to share their learning experiences and provided me with much encouragement."



SITizens going for the special otak-otak-youtiao sandwich, which was created just for the SIT Bursary roadshow.



SIT Bursary recipients get a chance to interact with Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (fourth from right).



SITizens making full use of the opportunity to mingle.



Brewing support for the SIT Bursary programme.