

Mapletree Nurtures New Buds

Committed to supporting SIT students in perpetuity through a named Bursary, Mapletree holds a special event for bursary recipients to meet its corporate leaders



A sweet thank-you: Bursary recipients presenting a token of appreciation to Mapletree Chairman Mr Edmund Cheng. (From left): Bursary recipients Ms Amirah Nuramanina Bte Abdul Rasek, and Ms Alessia Tan, Mapletree Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Hiew Yoon Khong, Mr Edmund Cheng, bursary recipients Mr Toh Poh Seng and Ms Teo Ching Qi, Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT and Prof Loh Han Tong, Vice-Provost, SIT.

Food & Human Nutrition student Alessia Tan and Hospitality student Amirah Nuramanina Bte Abdul Rasek had searched their hearts for just the right words and now, with carefully prepared speeches, they were all ready to express their sincerest thanks to a special audience.

The two final-year students at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) were among the Mapletree Bursary recipients of Academic Year 2014/15 who got to meet Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd's (Mapletree) corporate leaders on 11 March 2015. They were invited to the company's corporate headquarters at Mapletree Business City, at Pasir Panjang, alongside Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, Prof Loh Han Tong, Vice-Provost, SIT, and some members of SIT faculty and staff. The special event was hosted by Mapletree Chairman Mr Edmund Cheng and Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Hiew Yoon Khong.



SIT was able to establish the Mapletree Bursary in August 2014, thanks to the leading real estate, investment and capital management company. The Bursary benefits at least seven undergraduates in financial need at SIT, annually and in perpetuity, as it is supported by term and endowed gifts from the company.

Ms Tan, who is from Newcastle University's Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Food & Human Nutrition degree programme, said she had been struggling with financial instability before receiving the Bursary. "Despite being busy with school work and co-curricular activities, I would have to work at banquets occasionally in the evenings after classes to maintain a consistent cash-flow. Therefore, I was not able to focus completely on my studies then. However, now ... I am able to commit more of my time into assignments during this final semester," she said, adding, "Thank you for making a difference in my life, and in the lives of my fellow recipients here today!"

Mr Cheng, who spoke at the event, noted that with SIT, even more applied courses were being made available within Singapore's university landscape to cater to students with technical interests. "More importantly, this will also offer greater options to polytechnic graduates looking to continue their academic pursuits and seeking tertiary qualifications," he pointed out.



He added, "At Mapletree, we believe that access to education, including tertiary education, should not be limited to only those who can afford it. It is our hope that our contributions to education will enable more individuals to realise their dreams and gain social mobility. We look forward to working with SIT as it continues to launch more programmes tailored to meet industry demand, and believe that today is just a start of a long-term partnership."



1) Deep impact: Ms Amirah Nuramanina Bte Abdul Rasek, a Mapletree Bursary recipient from University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Bachelor of Science (Major in Hospitality Management) degree programme, shares how the Mapletree Bursary has made a personal difference for her.
2) Mapletree Chairman Mr Edmund Cheng (right) meeting SIT students who received the Mapletree Bursary.
3) Considering the future: (In the foreground, from left) Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, Prof Loh Han Tong, Vice-Provost, SIT, Mapletree Chairman Mr Edmund Cheng, and Group Chief Executive Officer Mr Hiew Yoon Khong.
4) SIT Senior Management, faculty, staff and students were taken on a tour to see key Mapletree projects.

