

# Touching the Lives of SITizens in need

*Board members of The Silent Foundation met with recipients of the Silent Minority Compassionate Bursary during a lunch reception at the SIT@Dover campus*



*Board members from The Silent Foundation with their bursary recipients as well as SIT faculty and staff.*

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) welcomed some special visitors to its SIT@Dover campus on 16 February 2017. The board members of The Silent Foundation, including its Founder & Executive Chairman, Mr Teng Ngiek Lian, held a meeting on campus before they were hosted to lunch by Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT. Also attending the appreciation lunch were recipients of the Silent Minority Compassionate Bursary, as well as SIT faculty and staff.

For the Foundation's board members, this was their first visit to SIT since they began supporting SIT students with a term gift of \$30,000 in 2015. This first gift from the Foundation allowed SIT to award six Silent Minority Compassionate Bursaries to minority students in need of financial assistance.

More recently, in August 2016, the Foundation decided to render permanent its philanthropic commitment to deserving SITizens. It gave the University an endowed gift of \$200,000 to make possible a new bursary – called the Silent Minority Bursary – for minority Singaporean undergraduates in times of need. Thanks to this gift, at least three bursaries will be awarded annually from AY2019/20, when the fund reaches steady state.

The Silent Foundation was founded in 2010 by Mr Teng who felt that he had benefited tremendously from society all these years. The Foundation is dedicated to assisting the 'silent sufferers' – those who have been overlooked by society and tend to be voiceless.

Ms Nurul Atiqa binte Mohd Tahir, a bursary recipient and final year student from the Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Nursing Practice degree programme (The University of Manchester) was initially nervous to meet Mr Teng and the board members from the Foundation. She was pleasantly surprised to find out how approachable Mr Teng is. She said, "He shared with us about how he did not come from a well-off family and that he had gone through hardship to get to where he is today."

Seated next to Mr Teng at the lunch, she also received an important life lesson from him. "I learnt that one should be humble no matter where you are in life," she added.



*Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (left), gives a small memento to Mr Teng Ngiek Lian, Founder & Executive Chairman, The Silent Foundation.*



*Bursary recipient, Mr Muhammad Muhaimin bin Othman (right) thanking Mr Teng Ngiek Lian. He was grateful for the help he received, saying that there is "someone out there who wants me to succeed."*