

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW TAN CHIN TUAN – SSTI STUDY AWARD FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SPECIAL EDUCATION UNDERGRADUATES

Tan Chin Tuan Foundation gives \$15,000 annually

SINGAPORE, MARCH 11, 2009 – Six Social Work and Special Education undergraduates were awarded the inaugural Tan Chin Tuan – SSTI Award at the 2nd Charity Council Networking Seminar held at the NCSS Auditorium, receiving a financial boost to their studies. The Award is the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation's first partnership with the Social Service Training Institute (SSTI), the training academy of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS).

Ms Yap Su-Yin, Programme Director of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, said, "The Tan Chin Tuan-SSTI Award is specifically for those who are passionate about making a difference to the community, and who wish to improve their ability to help the less privileged by training with the SSTI. The grant brings them nearer to their goals. More significantly, by supporting them through this award, the Foundation is signalling that we recognise their efforts, and we support capacity building for the social service sector."

Tan Chin Tuan Foundation supports capacity building for the social service sector

The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation has pledged an annual donation of \$15,000 to the SSTI to recognise and support students in pursuing an education in social service fields.

Ms Ang Bee Lian, NCSS's Chief Executive Officer, was appreciative of the Foundation's commitment in cultivating social service leaders. She said, "Talent attraction, management and retention are critical in ensuring a consistently high standard in service delivery of programmes to help the needy. The Tan Chin Tuan – SSTI Award is timely as it is in line with our current efforts to build up the manpower capability in the social service sector."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

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Social Work and Special Education undergraduates receive inaugural Tan Chin Tuan – SSTI Award

Having a strong passion to help unprivileged families, Ms Khairani Binte Katris, 29, applied to study Social Work full-time and is now currently in her final year of the Bachelor programme for Social Work with the SSTI. She had worked as a Social Work Assistant with the As-Salaam PPIS Family Support Centre for six years to help unprivileged families ride out their crises. Ms Khairani was one of the recipients of the Tan Chin Tuan – SSTI Award.

The other award recipients were Ms Suria Binte Basri, Mr Nicholas Lo Han Pheng, Ms Audrey Liew Hui Fen, Mr Ng Li Jin and Ms Neo Wan Che. The first four received the award for their study in the Bachelor programme for Social Work, while Ms Neo was the sole award recipient for her study of the Bachelor programme for Education (Special Education). With the exception of Ms Khairani, the other five recipients are either working full-time or part-time with Voluntary Welfare Organisations and pursuing their studies at the same time. For instance, Ms Neo is currently teaching at the Rainbow Centre Yishun Park School and has five years of working experience in Special Education.

Interested Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents could apply for the study award. Successful applicants would receive a one-time award of up to \$5,000 for their study programmes in SSTI, either the Bachelor of Social Work or the Bachelor of Education (Special Education) programmes.

SSTI trains social service professionals and volunteers

The SSTI runs more than 400 training programmes and courses yearly which are geared towards organisational excellence and the fulfilment of people-development goals of the social service sector. Last year, more than 10,000 training places were filled, enabling social service professionals and volunteers to pick up new skills and knowledge.

For some of its courses and study programmes, SSTI has also partnered eminent educational institutions such as the National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, and Nanyang Polytechnic. The Bachelor of Social Work offered at SSTI is a collaboration with the Monash University which began in 2004, while SSTI began its partnership with the Flinders University on the Bachelor of Education (Special Education) in 2006. Those who are interested in SSTI's courses may visit the website at www.ssti.org.sg for more information.

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National Council of Social Service

NCSS is the umbrella body for about 400 member VWOs in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in social services, to enhance the capabilities of social service organisations, and to promote strategic partnerships for social services. In FY2008, \$178 million was disbursed to 602 programmes in the social service sector.

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