A new beginning
GASS scholarship
Inaugural batch of graduates
Bigger and better
Fear not, I am your dentist!
GreenThink!
Supporting deserving youth
In the spirit of ASEAN
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Errata
In the September 2012 edition of UP, in the article, ‘Telling it from the heart’, paragraph 3 should have read Massachusetts Institute of Technology’. Apologies for the error which is regretted.

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Twenty five years ago, the critics were saying that private education was too costly. And, if parents could afford it, they would prefer to send their children overseas.

But these critics have been proven wrong.

This year, when the Sunway Education Group celebrated its 25 years of trailblazing education, which climaxed with a gala dinner, 2012 not only marked another milestone achieved, but a new beginning for the education conglomerate, which now has 12 institutions.

This is at least how the Group’s Senior Executive Director, Elizabeth Lee, feels regarding the 25 years that have passed so quickly. “In retrospect, we have done a lot,” she opines, “but what’s important is that we will continue to build on our expertise and proven track record, in order to help our nation’s youth reach the country’s goal of becoming a high-income nation by 2020.”

The Group has survived – in fact, triumphed – through two major recessions in 1987 (when Sunway College first started) and 1997/8 during the Asian Financial Crisis. What the management of Sunway has learnt is that private education is, in fact, recession-proof. “We saw a spike in the number of student enrolment during the Asian financial crisis,” says Lee. “Also, after the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in 2001, our international student population, especially from the Middle East, had also picked up substantially.”

This shows that the Group’s continuous growth is based on strong market demand for private tertiary education.

Harvard of the East

The Group, she adds, has ambitious expansion plans in the next 25 years. The grand vision is to turn its flagship university into the Harvard of the East.

To achieve this vision of its Founding Chancellor, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, AO, endowed the entire education group into the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, an entity that had replaced the Sunway Education Trust. It is an independent entity from the Sunway Group, which Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah had founded.

By establishing the Foundation, the chairman of the Sunway Group is essentially creating a legacy for himself, with the hope that the Sunway Education Group will become one of the region’s most dynamic education providers.

As the Group celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah reassured both staff and students that the Sunway Education Group is here to stay.

“I am pleased to be able to reaffirm our commitment to continue to shape the education landscape in Malaysia, equipping our youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in life,” he told an audience of over a thousand guests at the gala dinner.

“For more than two decades, Sunway has nurtured countless young minds who have gone on to achieve great things. I am proud to see our alumni, many of whom have benefitted from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, have become successful – and, are now contributing to society.”
Priorities
As the university is being propelled into its next phase, there are a number of priorities.

Research has been identified as one of the priorities of Sunway University. This initiative was spearheaded mainly by the University’s second Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert J. Bignall, and undoubtedly, will continue under the capable leadership of Professor Graeme Wilkinson, its newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor.

For this reason, during the gala night, a lecturer, Dr. Grace Lim Soo Yong of Sunway University was honoured for her research breakthrough in understanding electromagnetic waves travelling in a stairwell environment. A number of other research projects have been carried out by the academics, which need to be given more recognition.

Besides research, Professor Wilkinson’s most urgent priority is to expand the number of programmes available on campus, and with this, he hopes Sunway University will reach the potential capacity of 9,000 to 10,000 students by 2020. “Most major universities around the world have over 10,000 students,” he says. “Currently, Sunway University has 4,000 students. Nothing has stopped us from hiring highly qualified staff to join our academic team, but with a bigger student population, we will certainly be able to attract more of these staff to join us.”

The new programmes to be introduced will be based on the needs of the industry as well as hybrid programmes which will produce graduates who are qualified in two or more disciplines.

Sunway College, on the other hand, has over 6,000 students, comprising both accounting and pre-university students. Sunway’s pre-university students score good grades, which allow them entry into some of the best universities in the United Kingdom, United States and Australia. A number of its accounting students are already award winning students. Its Executive Director, Teo Ee Sing says that the college will continue to work hard to produce award winning students in the accounting profession.
Beyond Academics
It is one thing to produce bright academic achievers; but to produce award winning students who are also good at other things – it’s quite a different ball game! This, along with the development of soft skills, is undeniably what differentiates one graduate from another in terms of employability.

The Sunway Education Expo (“SEE”) 2012, held on October 6-7 and presented in the style of TED talks, allowed students and the general public to listen to and engage with inspirational icons and leaders in the areas of business, science, technology, languages and fashion. This was part of providing a wholesome education, beyond just the academics.

The event, according to its joint chair, Associate Professor Dr. Foo Yin Fah, had the theme “Inspiring Hearts and Minds”, which embodies the aspiration of the Sunway Education Group’s Founder to continually push the boundaries of learning and education.

This is one reason why a number of its alumni, such as those who attended the dinner have become well-known in their own careers. Their academic background has given them the boost in their specific careers. Individuals such as Sarena Cheah, George Ang, Kid Chan, Xandria Ooi, Reshmonu and Lenny Chiah among others were present, showing support for their alma mater and recognizing the significant role it played in shaping their lives.

To them, Sunway education has become the backbone to their lifelong achievements. They have not only acquired the knowledge but the personal skills and developed their talents to reach the top in their careers.

For this reason, when some 1,280 staff, students and alumni of the Sunway Education Group attended the 25th Silver Jubilee Gala Dinner, they were there to congratulate each other. As they were entertained throughout the night with various performances by current students including the Sunway University Ensemble, the Sunway Dance Club and Botswana international students, it was also a good opportunity to look back the past achievements, but more so, to forge ahead to become the leading provider of quality tertiary education in both Asean and worldwide.
Good news is awaiting SPM 9A+ achievers.

With the inking of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently between Sunway-TES and the ICAEW, a new Sunway TES-ICAEW Global Accountant Scholarship Scheme (GASS) will be available to deserving students from 2013.

With this scholarship, the successful applicant can expect to become a professionally qualified Chartered Accountant in five-and-a-half years, through the Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business (CFAB) pathway.

CFAB is a programme, in fact, the first of its kind in the world, offered by Sunway-TES as an innovative approach to fast track higher achievers from SPM/O Level school leavers to the ACA. Since the first intake in July 2009, three batches of CFAB graduates have graduated and are highly regarded by the employers for being well rounded, sharp and grounded in technical knowledge.

According to Sunway College Executive Director, Teo Ee Sing, the first three months of work-based learning with one of the ICAEW authorised training employer (ATEs) is sufficient for the potential employer to to assess the job performance and suitability of the student, before offering them a conditional Training Contract with the firm.

“They will go back there to work for three years while doing their one year of ICAEW Advanced Stage,” he said. “Paper qualification and work experience will qualify the student to graduate with the ACA, and become a full-fledged Chartered Accountant at the age of 22 or 23.”

A full-fledged Chartered Accountant with the ICAEW, compared to the ordinary accountants, can earn as much as a five-figure salary after a few years of working.

Under the proposed scholarship scheme, Sunway will waive the tuition fees for CFAB and ICAEW application modules, while ICAEW's sponsorship will be a waiver of registration fees, annual subscription fees and examination fees for CFAB and application modules. To date, a total of 16 ATE's or partnering organisations, including the Big Five, have indicated their interest to participate in the scheme and each firm will be assigned with one Top SPM achiever, with the first batch targeted in March 2013.

**TRACK RECORD:**
- Sunway-TES is largest education provider of professional accountancy programmes in Malaysia.
- ICAEW is the world's leading accountancy professional body.
- CFAB students have performed with exceptionally high pass rates in the ICAEW examination. The average pass rate of Knowledge module is above 90% and Application module - above 80%. CFAB students are mostly SPM students with minimum of 5A's and above.
- In July 3, 2012, 31 students passed the Case Study examination, bringing the total number of ICAEW graduates produced by Sunway to 128.
- Within the past three years, Sunway-TES has also produced six World Prize Winners for ICAEW professional stage examination papers.
A walk to end hunger

Their efforts attracted 1200 participants (mainly students) to sign up and they were extremely thrilled to raise RM20,000. The students and the Executive Director of Sunway-TES, Mr Teo Ee Sing presented the cheque to World Vision.

The End Child Hunger Fun Walk in aid of World Vision, was organised by a group of Sunway ACCA students who successfully highlighted the plight of the victims of the West African Famine Crisis 2012.

Christopher Louis Tan, an ACCA student of Sunway College and the project director shared “This idea was started by my 3 roommates and I who wanted to do something that can break the perception that people have about accountants being bean counters. We chose World Vision because the famine crisis is very new and affects 12 million people in the Sahel region. About 300,000 children are malnourished and are in urgent need of medical aid and food. Many families are surviving on only one meal a day.”

Christopher said, “Many people thought that we had no experience and can’t pull off the event. Not only did we achieve our target but we exceeded our own expectations.”

He added, “I thank Mr Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director of Sunway College and the Sunway-TES Accounting Club for their assistance. We are so glad to do something for society before we graduate. We learnt a lot from the project and the challenges definitely taught us to be flexible and to always believe in ourselves and not give up”.

Executive Director, Sunway College, Teo Ee Sing (right) presenting the cheque of RM20,000 to World Vision’s Tan Shu Yi (left) while students (in between, from left), Christopher Louis Tan, Lim Why Loon, Wan Chin Hao and Chang Yao Hern look on.
The first batch of graduating students completed the Diplôme De Cuisine as they received their final certificate, Certificat de Commiss de Cuisine from Sunway’s Le Cordon Bleu’s Institute of Culinary Arts.

The hard work, commitment and determination of these eight graduates over the past 9 months, has indeed paid off when they finally arrived at the end of their programme. Chua Tor Aik and Fitri Putri Fensury Tjong emerged as the best students from the batch.

Seven students also completed the Certificat de Cadet de Cuisine, while 15 others received the Certificat de Cadet de Patisserie, marking a finish to their six months of diligence before moving on to the final level.

Top Students
Ling Belle and Livia Tee De Mello emerged top students from their batch, respectively. Lastly, the Certificat d’Assistant de Cuisine was awarded to six students, with Yeap Sher Leen emerging top in her class.

Chua Tor Aik who emerged best student said he spent the first three lessons during his first semester struggling to understand the concept of cooking with Le Cordon Bleu, Sunway. “I was only able to grasp the concept once I understood where the emphasis lied,” he said. “It is not just about cooking. We learned about the food, its history and why it is named a certain way.”

Chua said he also understood what core ingredients, including lobsters, salmon and cod fish, are used and specific techniques throughout the programme. “The most important thing we learned was that there are no short cuts when it comes to cooking,” he added. “We actually learned the essence of preparing a dish, the same way it was prepared hundreds of years ago.”

Describing the school as the best cooking school in Malaysia as they are completely thorough in their teaching methods and restore the traditional technique in preparing a dish, Chua said that it was essential that as students, they learned every single step of preparing the French cuisine – both the techniques and theories.

Ho Yuw Ming, General Manager of Sunway Le Cordon Bleu urged the inaugural graduation batch and other graduates to make a difference to inspire other professionals in the industry back in their own country.

“You should bring out great old traditions of good food cooked from scratch, more flavours to entice the world and to raise the bar in gastronomy and ultimately be the Entrepreneur and Ambassador of your native and own country cuisine,” she said.
“Aim for the impossible!”

These were the words of Associate Professor Dr George Lee from the Oxford and Cambridge Society Malaysia to pre-university students and their parents, during a talk on the Cambridge Experience held at Sunway College recently.

Dr. Lee, who has a Chinese education background, spent six years at Cambridge reading Medicine, and another two years at Oxford, before spending the past 10 years with Imperial College, London.

"Coming from a Chinese school, we were taught how to memorise and regurgitate everything we study," he said. "But at Cambridge, I learnt to think. To perform well, one has to start thinking. My experiences as a student at Cambridge have also turned into lessons that I closely follow in life."

During his Oxford admission interview, he told the interviewers the story of one of the most important lessons he had learnt at Cambridge. "It showed I was genuine and honest and that was how I made it into Oxford," he quipped.

"Somewhere in you there is a fire that opens doors to the unimaginable. Don’t be afraid to be different, as long as you remain yourself and always think for yourself."

The other speaker was Professor David A. Cardwell from the University of Cambridge, who explained that the Malaysian system is very compatible with the UK system and the University of Cambridge is constantly looking for academically-abled students who enjoy a challenge.

“Students who have a passion for their course will have a great opportunity to learn in the University of Cambridge if they take advantage of it," he said. "The most important thing is being you. The institution should be admitting you for you and not for the person it wants you to be."

The session ended with an interactive session, with students asking a lot of questions.
Celebration mood

Youth and old, students and staff, they all participated in Sunway Education Group’s Silver Jubilee dinner recently to celebrate a new milestone achieved. The Group has made a name for itself both locally and internationally, as the preferred choice of education institution for students.
Bigger and better

With 222 participants, the Second Pre-University Conference had an overwhelming response, compared to the first event which was held in 2009 based on the theme, “Innovative Thoughts, Invigorating Teaching”.

This year, a total of 17 papers were presented based on the theme, “Learning within and beyond the classroom.” Participants came from as far as Sunway College Johor Bahru and Sunway College Ipoh, as well as pre-university students from Sunway College Kuala Lumpur, International Islamic University Malaysia, KDU, KBU, Sunway University and Wesley Methodist School.

The papers presented were in line with the sub-themes which are (i) current developments in education, (ii) methodologies in teaching and learning and (iii) leadership and management in education.

The Conference aimed to create a forum for educators, researchers, technologists and university students to share their knowledge and expertise in teaching and learning in higher education, facilitate discussions on major issues, new developments and trends in higher education including critical success factors and innovative practices. The forum also encouraged networking opportunities for professional development and education.

According to the Chairperson of the Organising Committee, Cheng Mien Wee, the planning for this Conference had begun 18 months earlier, and the work of bringing together relevant research projects was exciting and rewarding. “The organisers look forward to the involvement of international participants for the 3rd Pre-university Conference,” she said. “This conference exemplifies the passion and commitment of Sunway Education Group’s academics in prioritising professional development, promoting learning, and sharing best practices in education.”

Professor Dr. Morshidi Sirat, Deputy Director-General of Higher Education (Public Sector) presented the keynote address and officiated at the conference, while the plenary address was presented by Professor Dr. Moses Samuel, who is currently the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education at University of Malaya.
A forum entitled, “Orang Asli at the Crossroads” captivated the minds of young people at Sunway College recently when they were exposed to the life, culture and plight of the Orang Asli community.

The forum, themed “Celebrating Malaysia” was organised by Sunway’s MOHE Compulsory Subjects Department in conjunction with the nation’s 55th Independence Day this year.

Three distinguished speakers were invited, while the discussion was moderated by Dr Colin Nicholas, founder and coordinator of the Centre for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC).

In her speech, Tijah Yok Chopil, an indigenous woman of the Semai tribe who has devoted her life to empowering and uniting the once-scattered Orang Asli community of Peninsular Malaysia, said that the Orang Asli community is rooted in rich culture and values that are cultivated in each individual from a young age.

“The community is closely knitted, cooperative and respectful towards one and another,” she said. “Although the Orang Asli community is generally poor, they are dignified in nature and do not believe in begging.”

Tijah further elaborated by saying that the aboriginal community were mostly animists in their religious beliefs, who shared great respect for their surroundings and nature to protect them. “This is why land matters to them,” adds Tijah.

Their Basic Rights
A second speaker was Siti Z Kasim, a consummate human rights lawyer who is currently involved in many of the land rights issues affecting the Orang Asli community, shared how difficult it is for the community to attain basic needs such as clean water, transportation and accessibility.

“Children are transported to school like livestock animals on a lorry through muddy terrains on a daily basis. During recess, they eat their meals by the drain due to a lack of tables and chairs,” she said, as she highlighted the plight of the community in encroachment of ancestral land matters that are seized for logging and opening of plantations.

Social activist, Bob Manolan, who also represents the people in land issues in the state of Pahang, said that recognitions of ancestral and traditional lands and territories, rights to self-governance, practice to indigenous/tribal laws, self-determination, access and management of their own natural resources within their ancestral domain and history and cultural heritage are some of the areas of the demarcated areas of their continuous struggle, waiting to be restored.

Manolan further elaborated on the difficulties faced by the Orang Asli saying why many protests have been held to reclaim their identity, land, resources and cultural heritage.

The students also learned that the education system imposed on Orang Asli, especially those living in rural areas, is not in agreement with their traditions, cultures and value systems. Each tribe speaks a different language, thus, when a standardised education system is enforced within this community, the desired results are not achieved.

Sunway understands the plight of the Orang Asli community and consistently creates awareness through talks and forums. Since 2009, various community projects have been carried out by Sunway College, including the completion of a Computer Centre building (Pusat Komputer Kampung Jelintuh), a donation of 10 units of computers and the conducting of computer classes to the Orang Asli community at Kampung Jelintuh, Gopeng, Perak,
Several years ago, Sarah Zulaikha was content to be comfortable like most A-Levels students at Sunway College, but the graduate of Medicine at Cambridge University said, since she entered university, she has always challenged herself to put 100% into all that she was doing.

Returning as an alumna, Sarah urged her juniors to do the same. “When push comes to shove, I know that I have tried my best,” she said.

Although studying at Cambridge was a challenge at times, she said she never regretted a moment of her life there as a student. “I thoroughly enjoyed myself throughout my university years as I managed to find a good balance between learning and fun activities,” he said.

Another alumna, Jacintha Tagal who graduated from Harvard University in East Asian Studies advised that at university, one should always strive to enjoy learning. “Do not be afraid to ask questions and participate during discussions,” she shared during the Alumni Forum, held recently for the current pre-university students of Sunway College.

Wendy Chen, who has completed first year in Actuarial Science at the London School of Economic, said that university is a time to put away shyness and pride. “Do try and get involved in university life,” she said. “There is so much that one can learn from and grow from being in that environment.”

Xander Chong, who studied Biochemistry at Oxford University, advised that it is always a good habit to finish assignments early, so that one is ready to manage other tasks that may come in unexpectedly.

The four speakers, who are alumni of Sunway College, also unanimously acknowledged the invaluable learning experiences that they received during their two-year stint doing A-Levels at Sunway. “Sunway provided conducive learning environment supported by experienced lecturers who genuinely cared about our welfare,” they said. “The A-Levels had laid the solid foundation of our journey into tertiary studies.”
Most people have developed a phobia for the dentist, but for 20-year-old Lew Kean Jean, it was his observation of a good dentist that motivated him to become one someday.

Fear not, I am your dentist!

“What I observed was a positive doctor-patient relationship,” he recalled his experience, when he was working at a dental clinic as a teenager. “This intrigued me and that was when I decided to be a dentist. It captivates me how optimistic the life of a dentist is.”

Now, his dream is becoming a reality. He has recently left for Hong Kong University, where he will be pursuing a profession in Dentistry.

Kean Jean, who hails from Seremban, completed his A-Level programme at Sunway College last year. “The programme emphasises a strong background in Biology which is useful to me,” he said. “It has enabled my learning process now to be more comprehensive as I am familiar with the terms used in anatomy and physiology. I also owe it to my dedicated lecturers from the A-Level programme, who have never failed me in answering my questions no matter when.”

In particular, Lew singled out four lecturers – Chong Kok Foo, Irma Chan, Leonard Chin and Lee Lip Seong – who consistently motivated him and were willing to guide him in various aspects throughout his study period in Sunway.

“Mr Lee Lip Seong also went out of his way to give extra classes to students who were willing to learn and attend,” added Lew. “As a student at Sunway, I am grateful to have been able to meet these teachers whose style of teaching has meant so much to me.”

Recently, he visited his teachers and friends, before leaving for Hong Kong to pursue his dream in Dentistry. “My heart is with Sunway,” said Ken Jean recently.

Meanwhile, his fellow students, Oh Yue Jin and Fiona Tay Ting Nuan who recently graduated from the Sunway A-Level programme will be heading to Oxford University to study Biological Sciences and Mathematics, respectively. Another course mate, Ng Zhu Shen will be heading to Cambridge University to study Engineering while Timothy Goh will be heading to University of Pennsylvania to pursue his undergraduate studies.
GreenThink!

“GreenThink!” is a sexy twist of the original name mooted, “Think Green”.

The recently launched eWaste Disposal campaign, according to Sunway Education Group’s Director of IT Services, Tony Lee, means that the Sunway Education Group has indeed addressed the 3Rs “Reuse, Reduce, Recycle” environmental issue by recycling paper, glass, plastic and aluminium cans consistently since 2002, implemented the ‘Scrap-the-Styro’ campaign in 2010 and ‘Pay for Your Plastic Bag’ campaign in 2011.

“It is a convenient channel for the Sunway education community to discard their home e-waste,” he said. “This group-wide eWaste handling initiated by the Sunway Education Group, which was introduced in March 2012, is certified by the DOE. With just a little effort, we can all take responsibility together to protect our environment.”

Protect the environment
The widespread use of electronic gadgets and gear without a corresponding channel developed for their proper disposal is an issue that the Sunway Education Group is concerned with.

With improved and better technology deployed to all the Sunway education institutions, Lee said his department is also conscious of the dumping of used electronic items (eWaste).

“We therefore work together with both the Health & Safety and Facility departments of Sunway to extend this eWaste initiative to allow staff and students to dispose of their personal unwanted items conveniently at their work place,” he said, adding that the eWaste bins will be cleared on the last Friday of every quarter and the items will be properly recycled or disposed of by DOE-certified centres.

Where can I locate an eWaste Bin?
1. The foyer, next to the Security Office
2. Cafeteria, near the Energy Hub

Categories of disposable eWaste:
- Hand phones, electronic batteries, chargers, electronic boards and other electronic components.
- Bigger items such as old PCs, printers, audio players and TVs.
- Fluorescent lights of all types – tubes, bulbs, energy-saving, incandescent.

Staff member placing his e-waste into the e-waste bin on Sunway campus
The Sunway Education Group, which has its origins in 1987 with the establishment of Sunway College, is a financially self-sustaining entity synonymous with quality education and scholarship founded by the Chairman of the Sunway Group, Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, AO. In a span of just 25 years, the Group has grown phenomenally to twelve institutions located in Malaysia and overseas. Among the institutions are Sunway University, Sunway College, Monash University Sunway campus, the Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Sunway International School.

Owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, the Sunway Education Group is the only group of private education institutions held under a special purpose not-for-profit foundation in Malaysia. This transfer of equity ownership was valued at RM700 million in 2010. To the Founder of the Sunway Group, education extends far beyond the business realm and the success of the Sunway Education Group in contributing to education means much more than rankings and enrolment numbers. Over the years, the Sunway Education Group under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, has given generously in the form of scholarships and awards to society and accorded more than 11,000 deserving students, access to education which they otherwise would have been denied.

Guided by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation’s principles of Quality Education, Giving to Society and A Vision in Perpetuity, the Sunway Education Group is proud to be in a position to give generously to society through education which it views as a vital vehicle that enriches and improves lives.

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A total of RM11.7 million worth of scholarships was awarded to 1700 students of both Sunway University and Sunway College recently.

Among them were 13 individuals from the underprivileged community and those from Homes such as Rumah Keluarga Kami, Rumah KIDS and Rumah Ozanam, who will be able to further their education through the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community scholarship.

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is the first-of-its-kind in Malaysia within the private higher education sector, modeled along the lines of one of the oldest and most eminent universities in the world, Harvard University. The ownership and equity rights of the Sunway Education Group, to which Sunway University and Sunway College are a part of, have officially and legally been transferred to the Foundation.

The not-for-profit Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, whose tasks includes ensuring that assets, funds and operating surpluses are used to perpetuate the cause of bringing quality education to future generations of deserving Malaysian students. It continues the mandate of the Sunway Education Trust established in March 1997, and both entities have disbursed more than RM100 million in scholarships to more than 13,000 students to date.

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation was launched on 18 March 2010 by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, in the presence of its Royal Patron, H.R.H. The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah Alhaj Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj.
Dream come true
Zaw Waiyan Lwin, one of the scholarship award recipients said he comes from a middle-class family. “For us, studying abroad is like building a castle in the air,” he said. “I am grateful for this scholarship that will enable me to fulfill my dream.”

Zaw, together with Hnin Zaw Thu and Zar Chi Nway, commenced studies in July 2012. They will then embark on their chosen three-year Bachelor degree programmes next year at Sunway University.

Zaw will take up the BSc (Hons) Information Technology, while Hnin will pursue the BA (Hons) Communication and Zar, who plans to be an accountant, will do his BSc (Hons) Accounting & Finance.

Hnin said she hopes to apply her knowledge and experiences gained from her study abroad, to engage with people in her home country in nation building.

Lim Beng Choon, Trustee of the ECM Libra Foundation, said that the ECM Libra Foundation believes that education is the key to escaping the clutches of poverty and hardship.

“The Foundation is very pleased to support these deserving scholars and trusts that they would be able to meet the Foundation’s mission accordingly,” he said.

In response, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, said “As we celebrate our 25 years of trailblazing education this year, we are truly delighted to be able to extend our support beyond our shores knowing that these scholars will go on to play a role in making a difference in their community and their country,” he said.

Open to students from selected ASEAN countries, Myanmar is among the first countries to benefit from the co-operation between Sunway University and the ECM Libra Foundation in offering the ASEAN Scholarships.
Iron sharpens iron

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship is about giving hope.

Growing up in homes or from disadvantaged backgrounds, these young scholars would never have dreamt of going to the university, if not for the generosity of the Founding Chancellor of Sunway University himself, Tan Sri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah, AO.

Teaching them to fish

One of the beneficiaries herself, Candy Lee, who graduated with an ACCA in 2009 urged the younger scholars never to give up. The Premier Banking Relationship Manager with OCBC said that, whatever the circumstances are, community scholars have to equip themselves to face all the challenges in life. “Promise yourself that you will be the best in whatever you do. No matter what, do not forget your roots and the people who have helped you to be the person you are today,” she said.

Matthew Sheu, who was brought up at Rumah Kids, said the scholarship has given him a chance to be exposed to an exciting university life. Soon to be finishing his degree in Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information Technology, Sheu said that university life is, not just a time to learn about independence, stress and time management but it is about a new meaning in your life.

Like the proverbial saying, “Iron sharpens iron,” at the lunch gathering recently, the more senior scholars took the opportunity to encourage their juniors to excel in their educational journey at Sunway University.

According to Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group, there is nothing like hard work, if community scholars were to make a mark in the world. “I wish all our community scholars a fulfilling learning experience in Sunway,” she said. “Do persevere to attain success. Work hard and believe in your abilities and make your mark in the world.”

The Jeffrey Cheah Community scholarship is driven by a very old saying by the Chinese philosopher, LaoTzu. “Instead of feeding the poor with a fish,” he taught, “we should teach them to fish.”