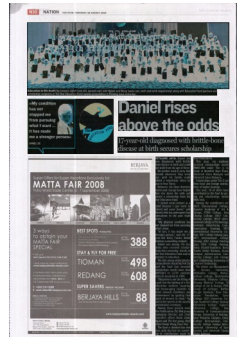



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Education is life itself: Ng (seated, eighth from left, second row), with Ngiam and Wong (same row, ninth and tenth respectively) along with Education Fund partners and scholarship recipients at The Star Education Fund awards presentation in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

»My condition has not stopped me from pursuing what I want ... it has made me a stronger person«

DANIEL LEE

Daniel rises above the odds

17-year-old diagnosed with brittle-bone disease at birth secures scholarship

PETALING JAYA: Daniel Lee was diagnosed with brittle bone disease at birth and could not walk from the age of three.

His mother used to carry him around whenever they went out, until his family could afford a wheelchair when he was in Year Three.

However, his sheer determination and courage have helped him rise above the odds and secure a scholarship from the Star Education Fund.

"I lacked social contact as a child because I just went to school and came home," said Daniel, who has undergone four operations in the past eight years.

"My physical condition has not stopped me from pursuing what I want.

"In fact, it has made me a stronger person," said the 17-year-old Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman counselling student.

Daniel was among 176 students who received scholarships here yesterday, thanks to the Star Education Fund and its partners in education.

The Star group editorial/education adviser Datuk Ng Poh Tip said the fund had awarded scholarships worth more than RM55mil to 2,276 students since its inception in 1994.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. Education involves inspiring and encouraging students to strive towards excellence and achievement by igniting that spark of interest in them," Ng said in her speech at the awards presentation ceremony.

Among those present were Star Publications (M) Bhd group managing director and chief executive officer Datin Linda Ngiam and The Star group chief editor Datuk Wong Chun Wai.

The fund is divided into two tiers, with the first tier consisting of contributions made by

Star Publications.

This year, six students received scholarships worth RM85,000 under Tier 1, to study at Montfort Boys Town, Universiti Putra Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Scholarships under Tier 2 are from local and foreign institutions of higher learning.

This year, 38 of them have contributed to the fund by giving out scholarships worth RM6.1mil.

Among the contributors are ALFA International College, Equator Academy of Art & Design, FTMS College, Han Chiang College, HELP University College, HELP International College of Technology, Institute Advertising Communication Training, INTI International University College, INTI College Subang Jaya, INTI International College Penang, KDU College Petaling Jaya, KDU College Penang, Kolej Disted-Stamford, Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur Infrastructure University College, Life College and Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

The others are Management & Science University, Methodist College, Metropolitan College, Multimedia University, Olympia College, Penang Medical College, PJ College of Art & Design, PTP Group of Colleges, Raffles Design Institute, Rose Education Foundation, Saito College, SEGi University College, Stamford College, Sunway University College, Taylor's University College, One Academy of Communication Design, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Unity College International, University College Sedaya International, University of East London and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman.