

“One generation plants the trees, another gets the shade” — so goes the Chinese proverb that Mr Kwek Chok Ming (Business '78, Executive MBA [Chinese] '09) has chosen to live by as Chairperson of the NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni. At its 25th anniversary celebration on 30 September 2017, the Mandarin Alumni strengthened its commitment to nurture the next generation of students through scholarships enabled by the NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni Endowment Fund.

“The alumni group members have been actively donating for quite a long time, but so far, these donations have gone to an expendable NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni Bursary,” Mr Kwek lets in. “But now, with this endowment fund, everyone can contribute and grow the reserves while students will benefit in perpetuity.”

The Scholarship will be available for application from Academic Year 19/20 onwards for students from the business faculty who have completed at least one year of study at NUS and have done fairly well. “We want to offer a helping hand not just to those performing at the top of the class — who are already guaranteed a scholarship anyway — but to those who manage good scores and really need the financial help,” says the 63 year-old senior financial services director. He adds that the Scholarship will help students who are facing family emergencies by covering their tuition fees.

BONDS BUILT TO LAST

But more than just fundraising, the Mandarin Alumni is also a platform for its members to build connections, as well as learn and share knowledge and life lessons

PAYING IT FORWARD

Giving back while forming bonds seems to be at the core of the NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni Association's DNA make-up.

THE
NUS BUSINESS
SCHOOL MANDARIN
ALUMNI ENDOWMENT
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»»» TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND, VISIT <http://nus.edu.sg/giving>

with one another, says Mr Kwek, who has been a member since 2009 and has served as its chairperson since 2014. “Many of us tend to drift away from the friends we’ve built great bonds with as soon as we are done with our education,” Mr Kwek says. “The Mandarin Alumni provides a platform to sustain this camaraderie, while cultivating greater community spirit.”

The father of four, aged between 22 and 30 years old, recounts the countless times he received help from lecturers and schoolmates when he was a Business Administration student, and later on, as part of intake 16 of the Executive MBA (Chinese) programme — which he undertook when he was 53. “It was definitely challenging to be studying when you’re not very young anymore, but I really wanted to fulfil my dream of pursuing an EMBA,” says Mr Kwek. The NUS EMBA (Chinese) programme, said to be one of the first EMBA programmes taught entirely in Chinese, lasts two years. It comprises 23 subjects,

divided into eight sessions, with an intensive learning stretch of two weeks within each academic period, allowing entrepreneurs and business executives to find a balance between their career and studies. **A**

»»» A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

On 30 September 2017, more than 200 members of the NUS Business School Mandarin Alumni came together to celebrate its Silver Jubilee. Held at NUSS Kent Ridge Guild House, the event was graced by Mr Sam Tan (Arts '83), Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MORE THAN

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ALUMNI



RALLIED TOGETHER TO RAISE THE FUNDS OF MORE THAN \$450,000 TO KICK-START THE ENDOWMENT FUND.