

Scholarships: Aid and guidance for recipients

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POVERTY is unkind. This is the experience of Datuk Tan Chin Nam, who later set up a foundation which together with IGB Corporation Bhd award scholarships and cash grants to underprivileged students.

This year, IGB Corporation and Datuk Tan Chin Nam Foundation gave RM330,000 to 12 scholars who come from households with less than RM2,500 monthly each.

Universiti Teknologi MARA Bachelor of Architecture student Erna Nuralia, one of the recipients of the awards, says: "Scholarships are hardly given to Architecture students. I am thankful that I have been selected." The third of five school-going children in her family, Erna is glad that the funds will help to lessen her parents' financial burden.

Another recipient Annapoorani Raman, a third-year student of Electronics Engineering from Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Malacca, is happy for the employment opportunities within the IGB group of companies when she graduates.

On the other hand, Loo Yee Xuan is relieved that he can concentrate on his first-year Social Science studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia now that he has clinched a full scholarship amounting to RM40,000, which covers tuition fees and expenses such as room rental and purchase of books.

Chong Yin See received a cash grant of RM2,000 to buy a laptop essential for her Bachelor of Accountancy course at University of Malaya.

Some 280 applications were received this year. Twenty-seven applicants were shortlisted after three rounds of review by a selection committee for the final interview.

IGB Corporation Bhd senior group general manager of human resources Shahrin Chin says: "The selection process was rigorous. The candidates went through personality profiling, intellectual games, one-to-one and group interviews to select the best." In addition to financial assistance, the senior management of IGB Corporation volunteer as mentors to the scholars.