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Headline: SMU producing entrepreneurial leaders for knowledge-based economy

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Home to around 10,000 undergraduate, postgraduate, executive and professional, full- and part-time students, SMU is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programs in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in interdisciplinary combinations of these areas.

According to SMU records, students from Myanmar take up courses across the six schools at SMU, with a majority of them studying at the School of Information Systems and Lee Kong Chian School of Business.

For this month's EduCentre, the special scholarships offered by SMU for ASEAN, including Myanmar, will be emphasized for Myanmar students seeking scholarships in one of the best regional universities.

1. ASEAN Undergraduate Scholarship

SMU equips students with the necessary skills and perspectives – hard knowledge skills, soft people skills, ethics and social responsibility -- to capitalize on ASEAN's blossoming opportunities. This scholarship will grant the prestige and opportunities that will make one an invaluable asset in the global economy.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Full-time SMU first-year undergraduate student
- Citizens from ASEAN countries (excluding Singapore citizens)
- Outstanding academic results
- Demonstrated leadership and communications skills
- Good record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement
- Good character record

2. Science & Technology Undergraduate Scholarship

The Science & Technology Undergraduate Scholarship is offered to outstanding freshmen from Asian countries (excluding Singapore). This scholarship is open to applicants intending to pursue the Bachelor of Science (Information Systems) program at SMU.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Full-time SMU first-year undergraduate student pursuing the SMU Bachelor of Science (Information Systems) program
- Citizens from Asian countries (excluding Singapore citizens)
- Outstanding academic results
- Demonstrated leadership and communications skills
- Good record of co-curricular activity and/or community service involvement

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- Good character record

3. Shirin Fozdar Scholarship

The scholarship is available to full-time female undergraduates at the SMU. The objective of the scholarship is to recognize outstanding female undergraduates of foreign nationalities and to support them in their education at the university.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Full-time female foreign undergraduates enrolled in any degree program at SMU
- Good academic results
- Demonstrated financial needs (gross monthly household per capita income not exceeding \$1900)
- Demonstrated leadership potential
- Active co-curricular activities and/or community service involvement

4. SMU International Scholarship

Established in 2017, the objective of the scholarship is to motivate outstanding full-time undergraduates of Myanmar and Sri Lankan nationalities at the SMU, to achieve academic excellence and to accord recognition to the recipients for their accomplishments.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Be applying for admission to a full-time undergraduate degree program at SMU
- Myanmar or Sri Lankan nationality
- Possess good academic achievements
- Demonstrate high standards of personal conduct
- Active in community service and co-curricular activities
- Demonstrated financial needs

SMU Alumni Myanmar Chapter

The SMU Alumni Chapter in Myanmar was established in 2013 to support the university's vision of maintaining strong linkages between Myanmar nationals who graduated from SMU with other stakeholders in the SMU community. It also serves as a platform for these alumni to keep in touch with one another after graduation from SMU through bonding activities. In addition, the alumni chapter organizes networking and industry events in Myanmar, as well as support fellow alumni businesses in tie-ups and collaborations.

Since its founding, the SMU alumni chapter in Myanmar has helped many SMU alumni who are not Myanmar nationals to settle down in the country when they are posted to Myanmar for work. Additionally, the alumni chapter has hosted various SMU groups who visited Myanmar, including undergraduate and postgraduate admission talks, overseas community service projects, as well as student-led and industry-specific study missions to Myanmar such as accounting study mission, international trading track study mission, etc.

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The alumni chapter currently has about 100 members. In the coming years, it plans to use the collective energy and networks of its members to plan initiatives that can value-add to the Myanmar community at large.

Overseas Community Service Project

Furthermore, A Linn Yaung (Light) is an Overseas Community Service Project led by SMU students from Myanmar and started in 2013. For the first two projects (2013 & 2014), the students volunteered at Agape Child Development Centre where children are between 5-16 years old. The SMU students taught basic conversational English, basic computing skills, time management, painting of murals, and also installed water purification systems.

In 2015, Project A Linn Yaung 3 went to a new organization, Pann Pyo Let Monastic Education School. The SMU students taught the local students basic conversational English, creative thinking, character building, and also conducted leadership and teambuilding workshops.

From 4-17 December 2017, Project A Linn Yaung 4 will again go to Pann Pyo Let Monastic Education School. The SMU students plan to continue giving lessons in basic conversational English and writing, basic computing skills, character building, and cultivation of good habits. The SMU students will also conduct physical exercises as well as leadership and teambuilding workshops. They will also be sharing on the importance of safekeeping the environment through eco-friendly arts and crafts, and games.

Memoranda of Understanding on Cooperation in Legal Education

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Law and Education Indraneel Rajah SC was in Myanmar for a visit in February 2014 to meet various Myanmar leaders. She was joined by the deans of Singapore's law schools, and other senior officials from the Ministry of Law. During her visit, Ms Rajah witnessed the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Legal Education between the SMU School of Law and the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Law with the University of Yangon's Department of Law and the University of Mandalay's Department of Law, respectively. The MoUs aim to promote cooperation in legal education between the universities. Key areas of cooperation include faculty exchanges, study visits, curriculum planning and design, cooperation in legal education pedagogy, as well as enhancement of legal research and development resources.

In 2015, SMU's Centre for Management Practice conducted a business case writing and case teaching workshop at the National Management Degree College in Yangon. There were 21 participants during the three-day workshop, which aimed to enable the development of writing and teaching case studies. The participants learned the theory behind developing a good case study and the guiding principles to write case studies. By the end of the workshop, they would have built a strong foundation for developing and teaching their own cases.

It is believed that using case studies in the classroom provides a means for abstract and conceptual ideas to be applied to practical, real-world business scenarios. Cases place students in real-life situations, forcing them to identify with the protagonist and come up with solutions to a plausible problem. As such, they turn students into active learners rather than passive receivers, helping them develop problem-solving and decision-making skills.

U Naing Ye Lin, a graduate from SMU Lee Kong Chian School of Business in 2013 and currently the president of SMU Alumni Chapter in Myanmar, said, "SMU has a unique pedagogy that focuses on self-directed learning and keen participation through discussions and presentations in class. Besides providing a rigorous curriculum essential for professional and personal development, SMU also equips its students with tools for continuous life-long learning.

"Some of my best experiences and memories from my SMU days were the friendships forged with fellow students, the international exposure that I gained through interactions with many exchange students who visited the SMU campus each semester, and the internship opportunities and learning journeys to many destinations around the world."

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