

# MIT alumni help raise funds for scholarship to alma mater

By PEARL LEE

HAVING earned their degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), local graduates of the American institution have come together to help their compatriots do the same.

The MIT club of Singapore – part of the school's alumni network – has raised about \$250,000 so far for a scholarship it set up to assist one Singaporean defray the cost of studying at the Ivy League school each year.

Last evening, it organised a gala dinner for 150 guests at the Fullerton Hotel as part of its fund-raising efforts. President Tony Tan Keng Yam, an MIT alumnus, was the guest of honour.

Club president Liew Kou Yew, who chairs the scholarship fund, said in his speech that he hopes it will help potential students “who may be deterred from choosing MIT... due to costs”.

The associate director of a private equities firm also told The Straits Times that in the past, MIT lost out on “a lot of promising students, not because MIT was not attractive, but because other universities were more aggressive with financial aid”.

In addition, the scholarship annually gives out a cash prize to two students – one from Singapore Management University (SMU) and the other from the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) – who are pursuing science, economics or engineering degrees.

The SMU student will get \$2,000, while the one from SUTD will receive \$1,500.

Mr Liew said the aim of these awards is to raise the profile of MIT among undergraduates here.

“Hopefully, they will choose MIT for postgraduate studies,” he said.

The cash prize may be extended in the future to include students from the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.

✉ [leeppearl@sph.com.sg](mailto:leeppearl@sph.com.sg)