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Heng puji SMU

Varsiti dapat juga hasilkan pelajar yang berbakti kepada masyarakat

MENTERI Pendidikan, Encik Heng Swee Keat, memuji Universiti Pengurusan Singapura (SMU) kerana menghasilkan bukan sahaja pelajar dan pekerja baik, bahkan warga yang berbakti kepada masyarakat.

Program yang mewajibkan mahasiswa SMU berkhidmat selama 80 jam kepada masyarakat sebelum boleh lulus boleh dibanggakan universiti itu, kata beliau.

“Walaupun ramai di kalangan anda akan menjadi pemimpin profesional kelak, anda boleh menyumbang lebih daripada itu, untuk memainkan peranan penting dalam masyarakat kita,” kata Encik Heng kepada lulusan SMU di upacara penyampaian ijazah universiti itu di Resorts World Sentosa, semalam.

Antara projek yang dijalankan mahasiswa SMU ialah pembersihan flat warga tua, kempen kesedaran mengenai pelbagai isu sosial dan program mentor.

Bahkan ramai mahasiswa SMU terdorong memulakan projek keusahawanan sosial berdasarkan projek masyarakat mereka.

Encik Heng berkata program seperti itu lebih mampu menggambarkan

“Idealisme dan semangat berbakti kepada masyarakat kritikal bagi membina Singapura yang lebih penyayang, berhemah dan padu.”

– Encik Heng Swee Keat.

perwatakan seseorang, berbanding pencapaian akademik.

“Idealisme dan semangat berbakti kepada masyarakat kritikal bagi membina Singapura yang lebih penyayang, berhemah dan padu,” kata beliau.

Dalam ucapannya, Encik Heng turut menyebut pencapaian SMU sejak idea menubuhkan universiti ketiga Singapura kali pertama ditimbulkan lebih 15 tahun lalu.

Beliau berkata Presiden Tony Tan, yang waktu itu Timbalan Perdana Menteri, berwawasan menubuhkan sebuah universiti yang berlainan daripada dua universiti yang ada ketika itu – Universiti Nasional Singapura (NUS) dan Universiti Teknologi Nanyang (NTU).

Namun, pemerintah waktu itu prihatin apakah pelajar Singapura bersedia mengambil risiko dengan memasuki universiti ketiga itu dan apakah ekonomi dapat menawarkan peluang pekerjaan baik kepada lulusan universiti tersebut.

Tetapi, pemerintah memutuskan meneruskan projek itu kerana yakin pada masa depan Singapura yang mempunyai asas ekonomi yang baik bagi pertumbuhan jangka panjang dan mewujudkan pekerjaan, kata Encik Heng.

Walaupun menghadapi Krisis Ekonomi Asia pada lewat 1990-an, dan kemudian kelembapan ekonomi pada 2001, pemerintah meneruskan rancangan menubuhkan universiti itu.

Akhirnya SMU mengecapi kejayaan lebih daripada yang dijangkakan kerana dapat menghasilkan lulusan bermutu tinggi, kata Encik Heng.

“Pada masa yang sama, suasana ekonomi yang rancak telah mewujudkan permintaan bagi lulusan bermutu tinggi dalam pelbagai pekerjaan cangguh,” tambah beliau.

Tahun lalu, lebih sembilan daripada 10 lulusan SMU mendapat pekerjaan, dan tiga dalam empat mendapat tawaran pekerjaan dalam masa sebulan selepas tamat pengajian.



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Translation:

The university can also produce students who serve the society

"Your idealism and sense of community are critical to building a more caring, gracious and cohesive Singapore." Mr Heng Swee Keat.

Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, praised the Singapore Management University (SMU) because it has not only produced good students and workers, but also those who serve society.

He said that the social responsibility programme that requires every SMU student to do 80 hours of community service before graduation has become an SMU badge of honour.

"Though many of you will be the professional leaders of tomorrow, you are able to contribute beyond that so as to play an important role in our society," said Mr Heng to SMU graduates at the commencement ceremony held at Resorts World Sentosa Convention Centre yesterday.

The projects carried out by SMU students include cleaning the flats of the elderly, awareness campaign regarding various social issues and mentoring programmes.

In addition, many SMU undergrads were keen to start social enterprises based on their community service projects.

Mr Heng said that such programmes say more about one's character than academic transcripts.

"Your idealism and sense of community are critical to building a more caring, gracious and cohesive Singapore," he said.

In his speech, Mr Heng also acknowledged SMU's achievement since the idea of setting up a third Singapore university was first raised more than 15 years ago.

He said, President Tony Tan, who was then Deputy Prime Minister, had a vision for a university that is fundamentally different from the existing two universities - National University of Singapore and the Nanyang Technological University.

But the Government was concerned as to whether Singapore students were prepared to take risks by enrolling in a new third university and whether the economy could offer good employment opportunities to graduates of the university.

The Government then decided to go ahead with the project as it was confident of Singapore's future because its economic fundamentals were right for long-term growth and job creation, Mr Heng said.

Notwithstanding the Asian Financial Crisis in the late 1990s, followed by the recession in 2001, the Government stayed its course.

In the end, Mr Heng said that SMU exceeded expectations because the university has been able to produce well qualified graduates.

"At the same time, a vibrant Singapore economy created the demand for high-quality graduates across a variety of sophisticated jobs," he added.

Last year, more than nine out of 10 SMU graduates secured employment, and three in every four clinched job offers within one month of graduation.