

Twice as many SME-SPRING scholarships given out this year

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The SME-SPRING Joint Executive Development Scholarships presentation ceremony.

SINGAPORE: More small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are sponsoring scholarships to help build management capability for the SME sector.

Ten SME-SPRING Joint Executive Development Scholarships were awarded at a presentation ceremony on Friday. This is double the number of last year.

These scholarships were co-sponsored by eight companies from the food & beverage, healthcare, retail and manufacturing sectors.

The eight participating SMEs this year include medical groups Acumed and Alliance Healthcare; supply chain management services provider Teckwah; information security firm D'Crypt; environmental packaging solutions provider Greenpac; and F&B players Jumbo Group, Select Group and RE&S Enterprises.



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Philip Yeo, chairman of SPRING Singapore said, ""We (SPRING Singapore) fund 70 per cent, they (SMEs) fund 30 per cent - which is a substantial investment over four years. By then, the students will join the company so the company will know the value of these people. We hope to get this as an on-going programme every year."

One of the recipients is Lee Kang Wee, a third-year business undergraduate at the Singapore Management University who will join Acumed Medical Group after graduation.

"SMEs being smaller (allow) you to identify more strongly with the company values and you actually know what you are doing. Unlike in an MNC where there are more layers of management, you have a lot more red tapes. That's what I like about SMEs," said Lee.

Jeffrey Yam, director at Acumed Medical Group, said the sponsorship is a good opportunity for the company to understand what the younger generation of workers are looking for.

Mr Yam said: "I think this is very much an eye opener for us. It is definitely something we hope to do again next year. Hopefully next year, we can take in more than one candidate."

All in, SPRING Singapore awarded 36 Executive Development Scholarship (EDS) on Friday. Of these, 26 are SPRING-EDS recipients, while 10 are SME-SPRING Joint EDS.

Since its inception in 2011, 18 SME-Spring Joint Executive Development Scholarships have been awarded.

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