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# Making dreams come true for students

## Group awards scholarships worth RM4mil to 105

By **CHOONG MEK ZHIN**  
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Photos by **LOW LAY PHON**

**S**OME say that the start of the rest of your life begins with tertiary education and 134 students got help via the Hong Leong Group annual scholarship awards recently.

Scholarships worth almost RM4mil were awarded to 105 students, including three disabled, to study a wide range of courses ranging from medicine to music and arts in local public and private higher education institutions.

In addition, 29 children of employees were also given scholarships worth RM506,500.

"I have been taking singing lessons, and taking part in competitions since I was eight. I am the only one in my family who is interested in the arts," said 18-year-old Jamilah Abu Bakar who has started her six-semester diploma course in Music Arts at the National Academy of Arts Culture and Heritage (Aswara).

"My siblings have all opted for medicine and so on," said Jamilah whose favourite singers are Celine Dion and opera singer Maria Callas.

Among her more memorable experiences include performing at the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in a special *keroncong* concert to commemorate National Day last year.

"At Aswara, I am exposed more to different kinds of music and singing," she said.

As for Leong Chui Lyn who is studying for a Bachelor of Medicine/



**All smiles:** One of the three disabled students, (centre) Ainaa Farhanah Amali, 18, who received her Hong Leong scholarship to study Interactive Design seen here with her parents Shahraful Azmah, 45, and Amali Mat, 50 after receiving the award.

Bachelor of Surgery from Monash University, her scholarship comes through her mother who has been working with Hong Leong Yamaha Motor Sdn Bhd for the last 32 years.

"It is my childhood dream to become a doctor.

"I was inspired by my uncle who is an intensivist working in the Intensive Care Unit in the US," she said, adding that she aimed to become a paediatrician.

The passionate 20-year-old even did her internship three times at local private hospitals where she got to follow and closely observe a doctor at work.

In total, Hong Leong Group, through its foundation and group scholarship programme, has awarded RM22.7mil in scholarships to hundreds of students.

Hong Leong Foundation director Quek Sue Yian said the scholarships were awarded based on potential.

"Scholarship recipients are not required to make repayments or bonded to work for Hong Leong Group upon graduation.

"This scholarship is meant to open the world to them in whichever direction they wish to take," she said.

The Foundation also has a comprehensive programme including learning camps, internships and mentorships to empower their scholars through development of soft skills to prepare them for the working world.



**Chit-chat:** Quek (centre) having a light moment with some of the Hong Leong scholarship recipients.

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**One for the album:** The jubilant 2013 Hong Leong Group scholarship recipients with the Foundation directors and top management people from the group.