ASSOCIATE Professor Benedict Koh of the Singapore Management University (SMU) says there are three ways to grow wealth: Reap high yields from your assets, invest large sums of money, or invest for long periods of time.

Of the three, the last one is the most important, he says.

“If you invest in something that can grow consistently, the future value in 20, 30 years is many times the original. It’s a staggering figure because it grows exponentially.”

Start with $10,000. If invested in an asset that grows at 10 per cent a year, it will reach $41,772 after 15 years. But if invested for twice as long, namely 30 years, the sum rockets to $174,494 — a fourfold spike.