SINGAPORE: Top Singapore Management University (SMU) graduate Darren Lim, who set up a scholarship from his paycheck to help another student with school fees, has already inspired a following - the first recipient of his scholarship hopes to do the same.

Darren was raised as a shining example by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in his recent National Day Rally speech.

It was a dream come true for 21-year-old Chen Huifang when she got the email from Darren Lim telling her she will receive $4,000 over the next years.

The daughter of a taxi driver and a housewife is the oldest of three children.

"He actually donated the money right after his graduation. I think this is something not many students will do. They may want to spend their first $2,000 or $3,000 on other things like traveling, but Darren actually thought of this," said Chen Huifang, an undergraduate at SMU’s School of Accountancy.

"He has become a role model for me to follow, to continue helping other accountancy students. I believe Darren started this initiative and I hope to bring this further. It would have a multiplier effect and it’ll help other accountancy students," she added.

Huifang hopes to set up a fund for SMU students heading overseas on exchange programmes.

"When I started this, I didn't have any grand plans. I am very encouraged by the coverage it's getting. If people hear about it and want to do something similar, then I say all the better. I hear Huifang is planning to start something, not now but in the future. That in itself shows the scholarship has already achieved its purpose," said Darren Lim, valedictorian, School of Accountancy at SMU.

Darren, who turns 25 at the end of the year, is now an analyst at a bank.

- CNA /Is