SM Goh urges youths to look to benefactor as role model

BY MARIA ALMENOAR

LIKE many another immigrants, he came here as a boy to work for a better life.
He was only 10 years old when he came here from Fujian province in China to join his father who was a tailor.
And with grit and determination he eventually rose to be one of Nanyang’s richest men and most respected philanthropists.

Dr Lee Kong Chian's contribution to education was held up yesterday by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong who was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Singapore Management University (SMU) building named after the benefactor.

"Dr Lee Kong Chian was an illustrious supporter of higher education and contributed a lot to its advancement. There is no better way to honour his spirit than to have the Business School named after him," said SM Goh.

Located in SMU’s campus in Stamford Road, the school was named in recognition of the $50 million donation from the Lee Foundation, which was founded by Dr Lee.

Speaking to 350 guests, SM Goh called on today's youths to follow in the example of benefactors like Dr Lee.

"As we train and educate Singaporeans to compete in the global economy, we must imbue in them a strong social conscience to give back to society which has nurtured them." SMU graduates must in turn give back to SMU and the wider society when they do well later," he said.

Giving back to society was one of the four key success factors highlighted by SM Goh, who urged the youth to "harness the world of opportunities".

Another success factor is the openness to new ideas, the entrepreneurial spirit and good branding.

"Dr Lee once said: 'Opportunities will fall in the way of every man but not every man will use them.' There is indeed a world of opportunities. We must seize them ourselves," said SM Goh.

The guests later toured three buildings on the campus, including the five-storey Lee Kong Chian Building. It houses three seminar rooms, four classrooms and group study rooms. There are also research centres, meeting rooms and a graduate office.