SID, SMU jointly launch diploma in directorship

THE Singapore Institute of Directors (SID) hopes that directorship will come to be seen just as much a profession as law or accountancy, with its own accreditation framework.

So to help get the ball rolling, SID has partnered the Singapore Management University (SMU) to develop a professional diploma course in directorship.

"I think that in time to come, directors — like accountants and lawyers — will become a profession," SID chairman Chew Heng Ching said yesterday.

The SID-SMU Executive Certificate in Directorship — the first of its kind, according to SID — will take its first batch of students in July.

It is a revamp of SID’s director training programme. "We hope young management executives will aspire to attend this course," said Mr Chew. He was speaking to reporters at the start of a conference on fraud management in the Asia-Pacific, held by the Singapore Insurance Institute.

In his keynote address, he said the next step towards getting directorship recognised as a profession may be certification and accreditation.

The possibility of registers of accredited directors is being already discussed by stock exchanges and director institutes in other countries.

The way Mr Chew sees things down the track: "To be a director you will have to be a qualified member of a certain professional association."

As to how soon this can happen, he is unsure: "But it’s certainly something we’ll always want to work towards."