SINGAPORE: The Singapore Management University on Monday celebrated its 7th anniversary - called the Patron's Day - in joyous carnival style.

As it reflected on the past year's achievements, it added another milestone - the setting up of a new sports scholarship by two of its first year undergraduates, both of whom are national sailors who won medals at the recent Doha Asian Games.

SMU's Patron President SR Nathan was greeted samba masala style by the Samba Masala band.

He also interacted with students and staff as he toured the campus grounds, which have been turned into colourful exhibition sites.

SMU certainly had much to celebrate about - a S$10,000 cheque was donated by two of its students to start the SMU Sports Scholarship, which will be matched dollar for dollar by the government.

Renfred Tay and Koh Seng Loong, both medalists at the 15th Asian Games, have decided to pledge $5,000 of their winning money to the scholarship.

"Firstly, we want to help sportsmen in other sports who are trying to achieve what we have achieved. Also to encourage other sportsmen to give back, if they win prize money, to the community. Then we found this (a) good way to give back," said Renfred.

At the event, outstanding students received awards and scholarships presented by SMU Chairman Ho Kwon Ping.

27 of them were champions in water polo, fencing, silat, swimming, sailing and judo.

"This is part of the SMU creed - we value sports in our schools because they represent the ability for a young person to have discipline, to show teamwork, to learn about disappointments as well as to enjoy triumph. We're very pleased that this is part of a whole holistic education that a student gets in SMU," said Mr Ho.

It is one, which the university promises, that will come with a vibrant student life, and both academic and co-curricular excellence. - CNA /dt