捐出亚运会部分奖金
两帆船国手新大设立体育奖学金

两名帆船国手把多哈亚运会的部分奖金捐出，成立本地大学的第一个体育奖学金。

22岁的郑稳镔和23岁的许圣隆是新加坡管理大学一年级学生，他们各捐5000元让新大每年颁发一份2000元体育奖学金给学业及体育表现优异的大一学生。他们也捐赠1000元给新大帆船队添购运动器材。

新大主席何光华昨天在“赞助人日”活动上致词时宣布成立新大体育奖学金，并表扬郑稳镔和许圣隆取得成就时不忘自己的学校。

由在籍学生捐款来帮助学弟学妹，这相信是本地大专学府先例。

政府对这一万元捐款给予一元对一元资助。新大也将积极向其他运动员募款，扩大奖学金基金。

郑稳镔在上月举行的多哈亚运会中，连同其他4名选手夺得帆船团体赛金牌，获得8万5000元奖金。许圣隆则在个人项目中拿下银牌，获得12万5000元奖金。郑稳镔受访时说：“多哈亚运会后，我和圣隆讨论捐出部分奖金回馈社会。”

同校方商量后，他们决定成立体育奖学金，一方面能给留意学业及体育训练的学生鼓励及经济支持，另一方面也希望能起催化作用，促其他运动员回馈母校或社区。

郑稳镔说：“兼顾学业及训练一直是运动员所要面对的挑战，我希望借此机会让校方关注运动员的上课时间问题，并在安排功课表上尽量方便运动员。也希望其他大学甚至职场将来也能有类似计划。”

他解释说，受到国家重点栽培的运动员，通常会获得当局资助或津贴，但也有许多运动员无法获得津贴，而这奖学金可以帮助他们支付往返训练场所及学校的交通费及购买训练用品等费用。

他估计，自己每年花费约500至1000元购买饭盒、手套等用品。

许圣隆获得校方批准休学一年以专心准备北京奥运训练，他目前在悉尼受训，没有出席昨日的活动。

对两名学生的慷慨捐款，新大学生事务处处长刘奕明欣慰地说：“对还没有踏入社会的学生来说，5000元是一笔相当可观的数目。他们的举动显得格外可贵。”

新大赞助人纳丹总统也出席“赞助人日”庆祝活动。
Two national sailors have donated part of their prize money from the Asian Games to set up the first sports scholarship in a local university.

First year students at the Singapore Management University, 22-year-old Renfred Tay and 23-year-old Koh Seng Leong have each contributed S$5,000 to allow SMU to award a S$2,000 scholarship every year to one outstanding athlete who is a first year SMU undergraduate and who has good academic results. They have also donated S$1,000 to the university to purchase sports equipment.

SMU Chairman Mr Ho Kwon Ping announced the setting up of the sports scholarship at SMU’s Patron’s Day celebrations yesterday. He commended Renfred and Seng Leong for their sporting excellence and for giving back to the university.

It is believed to be the first time in a local university that current undergraduates are giving money to help fellow students.

The government will match the donation a dollar for dollar. SMU will also proactively encourage other sportsmen to donate towards the scholarship fund and enlarge the pool of money.

At last month’s Asian Games, Renfred together with four other sailing team members clinched the gold medal for Keelboat and received S$80,000 in prize money. Seng Leong was awarded the silver money in the individual sailing category and received $125,000 in prize money. Renfred said: “After the games, I discussed with Seng Leong on donating part of the money back to society.”

After discussion with university officials, they decided to set up the scholarship. On one hand, it will provide encouragement and financial support for other student athletes. On the other hand, it will also motivate other sportsmen to give back to the university or society.

Renfred added: “It is a tremendous challenge for sportsmen to juggle training and studies. I hope the university will empathise with their time-tableing and allow flexibility in attending lessons. I also hope other universities will also implement similar flexibility for their sportsmen.”

He explained that there are sportsmen who are earmarked by the country and specially groomed in terms of assistance by the government or other incentives. There are, however, also many sportsmen out there who miss out on these incentives. The scholarship will ease their financial burden in training, transportation costs and purchase of sports equipment.

He estimated that he spent between S$500 to S$1,000 every year buying life jackets, gloves etc.

Seng Leong has been given one year’s leave of absence to focus on training for the Beijing Olympics. He is currently training in Sydney and did not attend the Patron’s Day ceremony.

On the generosity of the two undergraduates, SMU Dean of Students Associate Professor Low Aik Meng said: “S$5,000 is quite a large sum for a student who has yet to step into society. Their action is commendable.”

SMU Patron President S R Nathan graced the occasion.