Awards honour education sector’s best

By GEOFFREY LEE

INDIVIDUALS and organisations who have made a difference in the push to position Singapore as an education hub were recognised last night at the second Singapore Education Awards.

Organised by the Singapore Tourism Board, the event honoured five schools and 13 individuals who stood out against this year’s 1300 nomination pool.

Addressing guests at the awards ceremony, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports and Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts Vivian Balakrishnan highlighted Singapore’s achievements as an education hub.

"Apart from the strength of our educational offerings, we also set ourselves apart from the competition by ensuring that international students have a memorable and enriching educational experience," Dr Balakrishnan said.

Initiatives are in place to extend Singapore’s signature warmth and multicultural appeal to young people who pursue their education here, he said, citing the Asean Youth Festival slated to take place later this year as an example.

Dr Balakrishnan also said Singapore’s current international students population of 86,000 is on the mark for the 150,000 target for 2015.

The Singapore Management University (SMU) was this year’s winner for "Best International Marketing Effort by a Public Educational Institution", beating the National University of Singapore and NUS Business School.

SMU director of undergraduate admissions Alan Goh attributed the win to a hunger to take the extra step to showcase SMU as the best US-style university education provider outside of the US, highlighting Scholastic Admission Test (SAT) bridging programmes SMU provides for foreign students who lack comprehensive preparations needed to take the test.

Not to be outdone, NUS picked up the award for "Best Host for International Students Studying in Singapore".

The Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) won "Best International Marketing Effort by a Public Educational Institution".