

Business award winners a giving bunch

FOR hard-nosed corporate types, philanthropy and the act of giving might not seem aligned with business and its emphasis on profits and growth.

But giving back to society emerged as a major theme among several winners of a prestigious award given out by the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School to its alumni.

Among the winners of the awards were Raffles Education chief executive Chew Hua Seng and Mr Laurence Lien, CEO of the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre.

Both believe that giving back to society is becoming an important part of a successful business.

Mr Lien sees a converging trend between businesses and non-profit groups, especially since many businesses are focused on sustainability.

"Increasingly, non-profit organisations need to be run in a professional way. Business skills and management are thus an important tool," he said.

Mr Chew, who runs a foundation to provide education for poor students, said that many businessmen, after becoming successful, want to give something back to society.

Last night, they, along with five others, were honoured by the NUS Business School for excelling in their respective fields at an event held at the Raffles City Convention Centre.

Also on the list were SingTel group CEO Chua Sock Koong; Mr Lam Kwong Yu, CEO of Hong Kong-based manufacturing firm Starlite Holdings; and Mr Huynh Quang Hai, CEO of Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park.

Mr Huynh said that one of the perks of doing a master's degree at NUS was the wide network of successful and driven people he has met.

"Many are successful in the work they do now, including those in China and Singapore. I'm sure there are opportunities to do business together next time," he said.

Praising the winners, NUS Business School dean Bernard Yeung said that the award winners were an inspiration to aspiring business students.

The event was also attended by several leading figures in the business community, including Temasek Holdings chairman S. Dhanabalan and DBS Group Holdings chairman Peter Seah.

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