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Ruangan: THE EDUCATE

The super achiever

There is nothing to stop Malaysian scholar Michael Chin from getting what he wants both academically and professionally.

By NEVILLE D'CRUZ

be INSPIRED

A MALAYSIAN scholar is making waves as part of a growing tide of students who have taken their education to the global classroom.

Michael Chin, formerly from Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, is one of an estimated three million postgraduate students studying globally, and this number is expected to double by 2025.

Students like Chin travel the world to further and complete their education. They not only pick up valuable life skills and experience through exposure to different cultures and environments but make themselves attractive to future employers.

Since graduating from Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Chin has worked for Canada's telecommunications industry, Malaysia's Mitsubishi Bank and Lion Group of Companies, Amsteel Securities in London, the United Kingdom (UK), and management consulting company Accenture and accounting giant PricewaterhouseCoopers in Australia.

He has also provided financial advice to senior management at Airservices Australia, the country's sole air navigation service provider, and developed a commercially viable financial strategy to protect the company during a financial crisis.

"It (international study) shows I also have an emotional strength because I think it

Chin attended Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur in 1984 and quickly embraced the school's philosophy of developing holistically.

Apart from being a martial arts exponent, he was also active in athletics and held various positions in the school's Boy Scouts, Christian Union and Archery club.

At UUM, Chin was recognised as one of Malaysia's top graduates, winning the National Young Achiever Award in 1992, the Lion Gold Shield Award for Best National Undergraduate in 1994, the Royal Academic Award for Top National Graduate and the Distinguished Service Medal by the Conference of Malay Rulers in 1995 and the Tunku Abdul Rahman Award for Best National Graduate in 1996.

He attributes some of his success to the help given by several Malaysian academic leaders such as Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, Tan Sri Shamsuddin Kassim and Assoc Prof Faudziah Zainal Abidin and former Lord President, the late Tun Mohamed Suffian Hashim.

At Cambridge, Chin received a Chevening Scholarship and won a Fellow of the

Top student: Chin posing with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard after being presented with the 2012 Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award recently.

"The standard of the Monash Law School is equivalent to that of major law schools in the

which help the underprivileged. He has also worked with the Melbourne Cross Culture Legal Counselling Centre.

"Besides providing legal advice on criminal matters, family violence and human rights issues, we try to assist with a person's underlying emotional, mental and spiritual health."

Incidentally, Chin was the only first year student in Monash to take part in the inaugural JD Moot Competition last year. It required him to present legal submissions to a full bench of the Victorian County Court.

As part of his 2012 Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award, Chin will undertake a six-month placement at Shanghai Jiao Tong University to complete his studies in Chinese banking law, international law, foreign trade and investment law.

"I will be able to see the bigger picture of global transactions and professional relationships and networks.

"It will help me appreciate what is happening nationally, regionally and globally and not have a myopic view of what happens only in Australia," he adds.

After he graduates, he hopes to be admitted to the Victorian Bar in Australia. This is not all as he hopes to contribute to the Banking and Financial Services Law Association. He also wants to take part in the Australian Law Reform Commission's study of privacy on cross-border credit protection information.

Chin also has plans to attend an Ivy League university such as Stanford or Harvard in the