



FUTURE POLICEMEN:
(From left)
Mr Ryan Lai,
Mr Tan Kuan
Hian and Mr
Darrel Long were
awarded the
Singapore Police
Force Scholarship
yesterday.

PHOTO: LIANHE
ZAOBAO

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) Scholarship, previously known as the SPF Overseas Scholarship, is a prestigious scholarship given out by the Public Service Commission.

This year, the award was given to three individuals: Mr Lai Chi Ming Ryan, Mr Long Jun Da, Darrel, and Mr Tan Kuan Hian, all 19.

At a ceremony in the Istana yesterday, they were presented the scholarships by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hian, who is also Minister for Home Affairs and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

Mr Lai will be reading Law at the National University of Singapore, Mr Long will be attending the University of Cambridge in the UK, where he will be studying Geography, and Mr Tan will be studying liberal arts at Johns Hopkins University in the US.

Mr Long, who was from Hwa Chong Institution, said he was inspired by the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

"Policing as a career provides opportunities to interact with members of society you normally wouldn't interact with and directly impacts the lives of fellow Singaporeans," he said.

Mr Tan, who studied at Raffles Institution, called the scholarship a gateway into a career in the Police Force. He said: "I was always quite certain I wanted a career in the public service because I wanted to do something meaningful for others."

After their studies, the men will go through training at the SPF Training Command before being posted to the land divisions to assume investigation and command appointments.

Huang Na case left an impression

Singapore Police Force scholar hopes to join CID some day

Reports by **ELIZABETH LAW**
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Losing his father to cancer when he was 15, Mr Ryan Lai is forced to grow up quickly.

His resilience paid off yesterday when he was awarded the Singapore Police Force (SPF) Scholarship at the Istana. (See report on right.)

Mr Lai's father died of lymphoma in 2011. His condition had deteriorated quickly after he was diagnosed with the disease the year before.

Mr Lai, now 19, said: "I was very close to my father because he ran his own business while my mother was working. So he was usually the one signing forms from school and would be doing the housework."

"But after he passed away, it meant that I had to step up to become man of the house, helping my mother and older sister."

Mr Lai, who is a first-year law student at the National University of Singapore, said it was his time with the

National Police Cadet Corps that cemented his decision to join the SPF.

But it was during an overseas community involvement programme with St Joseph's Institution in 2013 that showed him that the police have a much larger role to play.

FIGHT

Recalling the trip to Manila, Philippines, he said: "Right outside the school we were helping, there was a fight going on among the youths, with probably 20 on each side. They stopped for our bus to move out of the school before continuing."

That incident made him realise the need for law and order in any community.

Mr Lai said one of his first few memories of reading about the police in newspapers was when Huang Na, eight, was murdered in 2004.

The girl lived with her mother in the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre and went missing on Oct 10, 2004.

It sparked a three-week nation-

wide search before her body was found in Telok Blangah Hill Park on Oct 31.

Malaysian Took Leng How, a vegetable packer who was a friend of the girl's mother, turned himself in. He was convicted of murder and hanged in November 2006.

Said Mr Lai: "I'm quite glad that my first posting (after returning from his studies) will be as an Investigating Officer. It's a good introduction into the system because you'll get to see all aspects of how an investigation is conducted."

He added he hoped to join the Criminal Investigation Department some day.

Asked if he was prepared to deal with cases running cold, he said: "Being able to serve in the force means that we're able to help families find closure during very painful and emotional times."

"And in the eventuality that we cannot, at the very least I must know I did my very best."