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Ten ITE students receive Lee Kuan Yew award

SINGAPORE — Ten students from the Institute of Technical Education received the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student/Trainee Award yesterday for their academic achievements and for overcoming life's challenges.

One of the recipients, Mr Lee Yu Qing (picture), 24, said he had not always been a role model.

Seven years ago, he was a bad hat, he said. "I almost went into Boys' Home because I was mixing with a group of friends. We got involved in a riot and I was caught by the police."

His father's plea that he not be remanded was heeded by the authorities. That made him realise his father's love for him. National Service helped keep him on the right path.

Today, Mr Lee juggles both studies and family responsibilities.

He helps his elder sister take care of their 74-year-old wheelchair-bound father and mentally-disabled elder brother.

Mr Lee also works part-time as a driver to supplement the family's income.

A group of students also won the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award for their invention which helps patients exercise. The equipment can be used to work the feet and hands.

It costs about S\$500, a fraction of the cost of a commercially-available equivalent.

LIM JING JING AND SEET SOK HWEE