

Muslim charity to offer top scholarship

■ BY RACHEL LIN

A PRESTIGIOUS scholarship for Muslim students and a special master's degree programme are in the works.

These projects were announced yesterday by the board of the Prophet Muhammad's Birthday Memorial Scholarship Fund (LBKM), which is celebrating its 45th birthday.

The scholarship is for Muslim students who have won a place in top universities overseas, such as Oxford or Cambridge in Britain and the Ivy League schools such as Yale or Harvard in the United States.

Funds for the scholarship are now being raised, said LBKM president Wan Hussin Zoochri yesterday.

Unlike LBKM's bursaries, which go to needy students, the scholarship will be awarded on merit.

The second – the LBKM Fellowship – is a tie-up with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy to offer a master's degree. Details will be announced at a later date this year when the programme is finalised.

The two initiatives, unveiled last night at LBKM's anniversary dinner, show the charity is stepping up its efforts to provide “more quality-based and

prestigious scholarships”, said Mr Wan Hussin.

“It is an incentive and a motivation for our students to aim high,” he added.

A coffee-table cookbook, titled *Lazatnya... Recipes of Love*, was also launched at the celebrations by President S R Nathan.

The Istana, various embassies and other ethnic associations had contributed their culinary secrets to the 150-page book, which is in Malay and English.

The sales proceeds of the \$30 book will fund LBKM's bursaries.

Among the 800 people at the celebrations were representatives from various

faiths, including **New Creation Church**, City Harvest Church and the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society.

Both churches and the Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society have helped LBKM raise funds.

LBKM was founded in 1965 to give financial aid to needy students.

Over the years it has handed out almost \$12 million in grants to nearly 17,000 students from primary to post-graduate levels.

Some of its bursaries are earmarked for students in specified fields, such as the life sciences, medicine, dentistry, psychology and social work.