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Crucial step forward for a world of study

Jill Pengelley

A GROUP of South Australian students who have won scholarships to study in Asia will be honoured tomorrow at a dinner in Adelaide.

The scholarships are awarded under the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarship Program, which has been responsible for almost 1000 exchanges in the past five years.

The Cheung Kong Group has about \$12 billion invested in the Australian energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, port and biotechnology sectors, including ETSA Utilities.

Spokesman HL Kam, who is group managing director of Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings, will speak today at the OzAsia Symposium at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Committed to education and building connections, he has initiated learning and exchange op-

portunities for young Australians and Asians through the program, which is jointly funded by the Cheung Kong Group and the Australian Government.

"Today, more than ever, education is an essential foundation for living a good and useful life, understanding our world and achieving important goals at work and in the community," Mr Kam says. "As the Australian and Asian economies move closer together, networks and connections are becoming an increasingly important part of our lives but you can't make real connection without real understanding.

"We believe the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarship Program presents a significant, innovative and extensive opportunity to foster mutual understanding and cross-cultural learning between students in Australia and Asia."

Since its launch in 2004, the

program has been significantly oversubscribed each year. It now offers 200 scholarships to undergraduates and 20 scholarships to postgraduates annually, half of which are designated for Australian students going to Asia and half for Asian students going to Australia.

In 2008, there are 35 awards to South Australian university students, with 35 awards for Asian students to study at SA universities. "The chance to study overseas is a precious one and we hope the program continues to be an important channel through which South Australian students can have the opportunity to study abroad and Asian students can sample academic life in South Australia," Mr Kam says.

For more details on the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarship Program, go to www.endeavouraustraliacheungkong.com.hk



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A BIG WORLD: Cheung Kong scholarship recipient Sebastien Ananian-Cooper 22, of Burnside.