



MELISSA KWEE

The Humanitarian

One of Melissa Kwee's most respected achievements is having co-founded Beautiful People five years ago. The mentoring and career development initiative for teenaged girls in transition executes educational programmes for the "At Beautiful People, I am focused on raising leaders and investing in my team. This year we have plans to establish an employment and career development platform to help our girls become outstanding citizens who can contribute to their organisations and to society," says Kwee.

Kwee had wanted to be a make-up artist as a child. Later on, she grew interested in becoming a development economist. Eventually, she put one and one together and found that both ambitions involved transformations, one being physical, and the other, socio-economic. Little wonder that Kwee is now committed to transforming troubled young girls into useful citizens.

Kwee is also responsible for the human capital at her family's Pontiac Land Group and its associate firm, Millenia Hotel Private Limited, which is the investment company for Capella Singapore. This, combined with her previous efforts in heading other non-profit organisations such as Halogen Foundation for Leadership and UNIFEM Singapore, makes Kwee a shining example for countless youths.

"We have to model the behaviour we want others to uphold. This doesn't mean we always do things in the best or the right way, but it means that we will have the humility to learn and improve with each effort," explains the affable lady who credits her family for the good values they have imparted. "Since young, we (my siblings and I) were taught to always assume the best intentions in others and to know when 'to lose is to win,'" she says. **E**