To change the world ...

3 S’poreans among young global leaders of World Economic Forum

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THREE prominent Singaporeans have been selected to be among the first 237 Young Global Leaders (YGL) of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the independent Geneva-based organisation that holds its influential annual summit of global leaders at Davos, Switzerland.

Member of Parliament Penny Low, Institute of Biotechnology and Nanotechnology executive director Professor Tan Cheng Han, and Senior Counsel, National University of Singapore’s Law School Dean and head, Associate Professor Tan Cheng Han, were hand-picked from a pool of 8,000 candidates by a nominations committee, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan.

The nominations committee include Ms Majorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson Plc (The Financial Times Group); James Murdoch, chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting Group; and MediaCorp Group CEO Ernest Wong. Formed to tackle global industrial and social challenges, the selected YGLs are the first step towards the 1,111 young global leaders envisioned by 2009, below age 40.

Said Ms Low, 37: “There is a lot of scope for closer, more integrated approaches in problem-solving. I hope to promote inter-cultural understanding, which lies behind many unsatisfactory conclusions in multilateral and bilateral negotiations on business or social issues. We must be wary of imposing our own cultural understanding on another party.”

Said Prof Ying, 37: “My research in nanotechnology is driven towards improving health care, the quality of life, conservation of energy, and preservation of the global environment. I believe we can improve the human condition through affordable health care, effective pollutant control and efficient use of energy.”

Assoc Prof Tan, 39, said he hoped to call attention to education, law and economic equity issues “close to my heart”. He said: “Networks of idealistic people committed to doing good can always make an impact on one’s own, what one can do is limited,” he said. — Mervin Tay