

Two million SEK donation opens the door for Thai students

[091019] By: Michael Nystås

A donation of two million SEK from the entrepreneur Sievert Larsson is giving young people from Thailand the chance to study for a Masters at Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg.

- **With the way** the world is we have to have an international perspective on what we do. It goes without saying that I am going to focus on Chalmers. As a native of Göteborg, I have a great respect for Chalmers, Sievert Larsson says.

The new scholarship is established this autumn and amounts to SEK 225,000, which will be sufficient for two years' full-time studies for 3-4 recipients each year. It will initially be awarded in 2010 and 2011, and it is being introduced at an opportune moment as fees for international students come into effect in Swedish colleges and universities.

President Karin Markides is delighted and grateful about the bequest:
- Sievert Larsson's desire to support Thai students who wish to do a Masters at Chalmers is entirely in accordance with our strategy that approximately one third of our Masters students should come from abroad. The scholarship will be an important component in attracting gifted students from Thailand, she says.

In 2007 Sievert Larsson converted Ancoria Insurance, his Cyprus-based insurance company, into a charity, The Sievert Larsson Scholarship Foundation. The foundation gives needy young people the opportunity to study at university or college. The donation of two million SEK to Chalmers will provide young people from financially vulnerable families in Thailand with an opportunity to study for a Swedish Masters degree.

- **It feels as** if the money is returning to my home town again and it is to the delight of both myself and the students. I have strong feelings for Chalmers even though I never studied there myself, says Sievert



- **It feels as if the money is returning to my home town again and it is to the delight of both myself and the students, the donor Sievert Larsson says. Photo: Petra K Nilsson**

Larsson, who was born and grew up in Göteborg.

The scholarship, which bears the donor's name, will be the third largest scholarship donation to be managed by the Friends of Chalmers fund. Already in place are The Rune Andersson Scholarship, which is aimed at former students, and The Ulla-Britt Bergkvist Scholarship, for which female technology students can apply.

- The Sievert Larsson Scholarship will be a welcome complement to our scholarship programme for students, researchers and alumni, says Michael Nystås, project manager for the fund.

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Friends of Chalmers is a development- and scholarship fund. In accordance with the donors' wishes, the funds invest in people - through scholarships for young researchers and students - and ideas - through support for research and development projects.

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