



UOB Group deputy chairman and chief executive Wee Ee Cheong (centre) leading senior management figures in a “lo hei” last night. Also seen is Associate Professor Annie Koh (right), SMU’s dean at the office of executive and professional education, who was a guest at the event. PHOTO: UOB

Guests from 2,000 SMEs join UOB event

UNITED Overseas Bank (UOB) Group deputy chairman and chief executive Wee Ee Cheong last night led senior management in a festive “lo hei” – the tossing of raw fish salad.

Guests hailing from 2,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including regional customers, joined the bank in ushering in the Year of the Tiger at the grand ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton Millenia hotel.

Also attending the event were UOB’s senior executive vice-president of institutional financial services and private banking Cheong Kie Cheong, head of commercial banking Eric Tham and head of business banking Dennis Goh.

They were joined by the chief execu-

tives of UOB’s subsidiaries in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Other distinguished guests included Spring Singapore chief executive Png Cheong Boon, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore’s capability development group director Khoo Wee Lin, and Marsh (Singapore) Asia practice leader Richard Green.

UOB also announced yesterday that, as of Jan 31, it had garnered the largest market share of approved loans under government assistance schemes designed to keep credit flowing in the recent downturn.

Many guests attended the dinner dressed in oriental or national costumes.

The celebration – themed “Roar of

the Orient” – was held on the fifth day of the lunar calendar, in keeping with the bank’s tradition of celebrating within the 15 days of the Chinese New Year.

UOB also presented mementos to Spring Singapore, IE Singapore, Marsh, as well as the Singapore Management University (SMU), in recognition of the close partnership the bank has had with them.

For instance, SMU – whose dean at the office of executive and professional education Annie Koh was also present at the event – has collaborated with UOB to form the UOB-SMU entrepreneurship alliance to support the growth and development of local enterprises and academic excellence.

DICKSON LI