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Just take the plunge, aspiring entrepreneurs told

GEORGE TOWN: Aspiring entrepreneurs who are unsure about starting their own business should just take the plunge, instead of merely thinking about it, said Exabytes Network Sdn Bhd CEO and founder Chan Kee Siak.

"Only when they try, will they know whether it will be too challenging for them.

"The same goes for studying – only when they go and really study will they know that is what they really want," said Chan, who was named Entrepreneur of the Year at *The Star* Outstanding Business Awards (SOBA) 2014.

"It is really all about the check and balance, and lots of trying and experimenting.

"Once that decision is made, it is important to stay focused," he said at the first Learning Series workshop for SOBA 2015 at the Star Northern Hub in Bayan Lepas on Thursday.

The Learning Series themed "Breakthrough to Excellence" is



Go for it: (From left) Ngei, Lim and Chan sharing their knowledge at the workshop. – ZHAFARAN NASIB / *The Star*

aimed at sharing knowledge that will help sharpen the business acumen of the workforce, besides offering networking opportunities.

Feruni Ceramiche Sdn Bhd's managing director C.C. Ngei and Kalyx Consultants Sdn Bhd's managing director Shirlyn Lim also presented

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talks at the workshop.

During SOBA 2014, Feruni walked away as the platinum winner in the Best in Marketing, Best Brand and Best Employer section, and grand winner in the Malaysian Business of the Year category. Kalyx Consultants received the Most Promising Award.

Ngei, who has over 20 years of experience in the tiling industry, presented "SOBA Success Story: Being An Innovative Entrepreneur" while Lim shared knowledge on the GST.

SOBA pays tribute to up-and-coming non-listed Malaysian companies and small and medium enterprises by celebrating the achieve-

ments of enterprises that have made a difference to the nation's economy.

SOBA is open to all local enterprises that are not part of a multinational group or listed group, incorporated in Malaysia with foreign equity not exceeding 50%.

Those who wish to participate may obtain the awards submission pack from *The Star* or download the forms from the SOBA website. Deadline for entries is Sept 11.

SOBA 2015 is organised by *The Star* with sponsors PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd, EXIM Bank, Naza Euro Motors and Credit Guarantee Corporation Bhd, and official venue sponsor Connexion@Nexus.

It is endorsed by the Secretariat for the Advancement of Malaysian Entrepreneurs, supported by Bursa Malaysia and audited by BDO, with 988 and RedFM as the official radio stations. For more information, call 03-7967 1388 ext 1240 (Melissa) / 1475 (Pei Wen) or visit www.soba.com.my.