NUS, NTU business schools among top 35 worldwide

By Lennard Ong

A new league table has ranked the business schools at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) among the top 35 worldwide.

The NUS Business School retained its 23rd position from last year in the Financial Times (FT) Top 100 Global MBA Rankings, while the Nanyang Business School (NBS) slipped a place to 34.

Singapore Management University's (SMU's) master of business administration (MBA) programme did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the FT rankings, which requires a college to have graduated at least 10 years ago. SMU's first batch of MBA students graduated in 2009.

A Stanford Graduate School of Business toped the rankings for the first time after being in the top 10 for 13 consecutive years.

Harvard Business School was second, with the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in third.

Professor Bernard Yeung, dean of the NUS Business School, said yesterday: "These rankings are a recognition that the school continues to meet the needs of our students and employers, while providing a rigorous education.

"We are also pleased to be in the company of two Chinese and two Indian business schools, also ranked among the top 25 in the world. This shows that Asia's economic dynamism is being followed by the emergence of top business schools."

Professor Gillian Yeo, interim dean of the Nanyang Business School, said: "Our consistently strong showing in these well-recognised, independent MBA rankings affirms NBS' membership in the league of elite international business schools."

There were 10 Asian schools in the top 100, with Hong Kong UST Business School leading the way at the 10th spot.

NBS graduates from NUS enjoyed salary increases of 185 per cent over three years, compared with what they were earning before completing the programme. In contrast, NBS graduates had an average salary increase of 129 per cent.

But NBS graduates had a higher average salary. Measured three years after graduation, they had an average annual salary of $US102,350 ($53,000), compared with NUS graduates' $US97,625.

Mr Srikant Sridharan, a 2008 MBA graduate from NUS who now works at Cognizant Business Consulting services in India, said he was always confident that the NUS programme was among the world's best.

He said: "Being a consultant, it was important that I understood various aspects of business and was able to converse with senior executives to help them make informed decisions."

"The NUS curriculum gave me adequate depth and breadth to gain these perspectives."

The FT survey uses data from business schools and their alumni. Salary and salary increase three years after graduation is a heavy factor in determining the rankings, although career progression, diversity of students and faculty, and idea generation also play a part.

Ms Audrey Lim, Johnson & Johnson's senior university recruiter for Asia Pacific, said the FT league table, along with other rankings, is one of the determining factors when the company hires prospective MBA graduates.