S’pore schools climb elite MBA league

SINGAPORE universities have jumped several notches up a prestigious ranking of the world’s best business schools.

Under an annual list of the top 100 full-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes worldwide, Nanyang Business School came in at No 24 — the highest achieved by a Singapore institution so far — while the National University of Singapore (NUS) took 35th place.

Both schools improved significantly from their previous performances; Nanyang was 46th last year and NUS was 81st the last time it made the list in 2007.

The 2009 Global MBA Rankings, released on Monday by the Financial Times, were based on three main areas: Salaries of graduates and career development, the diversity and international reach of the business school and its MBA programme, as well as each school’s research capabilities. These were separately evaluated by the alumni and the school itself.

The latest rankings revealed several turning points — including the ascent of Asian business schools.

For the first time, a Chinese name made it to the top 10: Shanghai-based China European International Business School was ranked No 8, up from 11th the previous year.

The alumni of Singapore universities have also been receiving more attractive pay packages. Nanyang’s MBA graduates reported a salary of about US$104,300 ($156,000) on a weighted average basis. Last year, those who graduated three years earlier had reported US$90,000. The graduates’ salary also rose 131 per cent upon completing the programme three years ago, up from the 111-per-cent increase reported last year by those who graduated three years earlier.

Over at NUS, the business school trumpeted its being “the only Singapore school to be ranked among the best in the world for both its MBA and Executive MBA programmes”. A separate list — the Financial Times’ Executive MBA rankings — placed it 20th.

Singapore Management University (SMU) did not feature on the list. A criterion for participating is that the full-time MBA programme must have been running for at least five years. SMU’s programme started in 2008.

HOW NUS AND NTU FARED IN FT’S 2009 GLOBAL MBA RANKINGS

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SMU did not feature on the list because it did not meet the criterion that its programme must have been running for at least five years.