FT’s ranking of MBA programmes brings mixed fortunes for Singapore’s unis

by LEE U-WEN
[SINGAPORE] The Nanyang Business School’s (NBS) flagship Master of Business Administration (MBA) pro-
grame has again been placed among the top 70 in the world by the Financial Times (FT).

It came in 27th - down three spots from last year’s 24th position - in the latest ranking of the top 100 full-time global MBA pro-
grame by the London-based business newspa-
per. The Nanyang MBA was ranked fourth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite its drop by its ab-

sence this year, however, is the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School, which was left out completely because FT said that it was “lacking sufficiently promi-

nent data to rank the MBA after all data manage-

ment programmes were withdrawn, said an NUS spokes-

person.

The NUS MBA was ranked 35th in the 2009 ranking, marking a sharp improve-
mement from its 81st place in 2007. The Singapore Ma-

ster of Accounting (MCA) programme was again unranked because its first MCA batch was only launched in 2008.

The NBS dean Bernard Yeung said that it was “unfortunate” that the university’s MBA was not ranked this year for a technicality. He added, how-

ever, that the school was re-
mained confident of the quality of its MBA offerings regardless.

“While we take rankings seriously, our aim is to provide the highest quality business education, includ-
ing the MBA programme,” he said. “We re-

main assured that the NUS MBA has been consistently recognised as one of the top MBA programmes in Asia.”

The NUS MBA, which was ranked 35th in last year’s FT rankings, was ranked 39th in 2008, while the regular MCA was ranked 76th for the first time it was inclu-
ded in the FT rankings.

NBS’s interim dean Gil-

lian Yeo said: “I am deligh-
ted that the Nanyang MBA continues to be ranked among the very best global-

ly and that the many re-
cognises and values the

worldclass education that we provide. Our strategy has always been to emphasise both academic rigour and relevance to business-

es and industry, to enable our graduates to successfully and responsibly lead organisations globally.”

The programme scored well on several fronts, in-
cluding salary increases, ca-

reer progression, intern-


ational mobility and ideas generation through re-

search.

The FT survey showed that the Nanyang MBA stu-
dents who graduated three years ago currently earn, on average, a salary of US$110,567, up from US$104,294 reported last year by the previous co-

hort. The most significant improvement was in the ca-

reer progress rank, which has jumped to 15th posi-
tion from 71st position last year.

The FT rankings are based on two sets of sur-

veys - one completed by alumni and the other by business schools. The rankings are heavily weighted on the sa-

lary levels of surveyed alumni

for three years after their graduation.

For the record, the Lon-

don Business School cele-

brated its rise as the sole University number one, having shared that position last year with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, whom Harvard remained in third place.

The biggest surprise, however, was the sharp de-

cline of Shanghai’s China European International Business School, which fell from last year’s 8th place to 22nd this year.